

the johns hopkins NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

VOLUME CXXII, ISSUE XVII

WWW.JHNEWSLETTER.COM

FEBRUARY 15, 2018



COURTESY OF SAM FOSSUM

Members of the student group Refuel our Future gathered on Tuesday to voice their dissatisfaction with the University's partial divestment from fossil fuels.

Refuel continues fight for full fossil fuel divestment

By SARAH Y. KIM
News & Features Editor

Refuel Our Future (Refuel), a student-led fossil fuel divestment campaign, organized a rally in front of Gilman Hall on Tuesday afternoon, demanding that the University fully divest from fossil fuels. Their protest responded to the Board of Trustees' decision last December to divest its

endowment from thermal coal companies.

The rally drew over 40 demonstrators, who held signs reading "Divest the Nest" and shouted slogans like "no more oil, no more coal, full divestment is our goal." Members of Refuel and Students for Environmental Action (SEA) gave speeches, and Refuel shared an online pledge asking students, faculty

and alumni to withhold donations to the University.

Refuel had hoped that the University would follow through with the recommendations from the Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (PIIAC) which were released in September. PIIAC recommended that the University "terminate all direct investments" in Carbon Underground 200 Companies (CU 200), which are leaders in industries that include fossil fuels aside from thermal coal such as oil and natural gas.

In a speech at the rally, Refuel President Atlas Elawad said that the Board's decision was "not acceptable."

"We're not going to stop

here," Elawad said. "We're not sitting on this victory. We need to continue to push, stay active, stay engaged so we can realize our ultimate goal of having the University divest all of its assets from all fossil fuel industries."

Refuel member Clarissa Chen also expressed her frustration with the Board for failing to meet Refuel's demands.

"This fight has been going on way too long at this school. It fucking sucks," she said. "It's been six years of doing research, of us rallying a bunch of students for support and of us negotiating with the administration."

SEE DIVEST, PAGE A5

Local students push for citywide Styrofoam ban



COURTESY OF MICHEL ANDERSON

On Feb. 6, local students rallied outside City Hall support a ban on foam.

By DIVA PAREKH
Copy Editor

After a five month long process that started in September 2017, a bill proposing a ban on polystyrene foam (Styrofoam) products in the food service industry received a City Council hearing on Tuesday, February 6. City Council voted unanimously to send the bill to Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh's desk for approval.

Baltimore Beyond Plastic (BBP), an environmental action group, was founded in December 2016 by local high school students Claire Wayner and Mercedes Thompson. BBP worked with several other environmental advocacy groups, including Hopkins Students for Environmental Action (SEA), to gather support for the ban and bring the bill to City Council.

Although some believe banning polystyrene products would be a financial

burden for local businesses, many agree that Styrofoam has a negative impact on environmental and human health. Wayner, who is now a visiting undergraduate student at Hopkins, emphasized the importance of student and youth action.

"We had noticed all the plastic pollution around Baltimore, especially in the Inner Harbor," she said. "We wanted to figure out a way to address that, and we also noticed that other cities were taking action by banning plastic bags, doing policy work or passing laws."

Around 200 students from Baltimore City schools attended Tuesday's hearing. BBP member Dennis Gong talked about the significance of mobilizing students throughout the process.

"Galvanizing the student support behind the bill and getting students involved in policy and politics is a big reason why

SEE FOAM BAN, PAGE A4

Public safety education program set to close in 2019

By SEBASTIAN KETTNER
For The News-Letter

The Division of Public Safety Leadership (PSL) at the School of Education (SOE) will be phased out by December 2019, according to an announcement from SOE Dean Christopher Morpew. Current students will be able to complete their degrees, but no new students, including those currently in the application process, will be accepted.

PSL is a nationally-recognized program that combines liberal arts and leadership education to teach public safety offi-

cials. More than 90 heads of public safety agencies in the U.S., including over 75 chiefs of police, are graduates of the program. In addition, PSL has trained over 20,000 through non-credit programs.

In his announcement on Dec. 20, Morpew cited diminished enrollments, faculty turnover and a lack of academic focus as the reasons for shutting down the program.

Kyle Bodenhorn, a police sergeant in Prince George's County who graduated from the Division in 2017, feels that the University was premature in ending the program during a time

University stands by honorary Cosby degree

By MORGAN OME
News & Features Editor

Since 2015, several colleges and universities have called into question whether they should take back honorary degrees they had previously awarded to comedian and actor Bill Cosby. Over 50 women have accused Cosby of sexual assault. His first trial last June ended in a mistrial and he is set to appear in court again in April.

On Thursday, Feb. 1, the University of Pennsylvania (Penn) announced that it will revoke its honorary degree for Cosby in light of the allegations against him. In a statement, Hopkins, which awarded Cosby an honorary degree in 2004, indicated that it has no current plans to revoke his degree.

"Johns Hopkins University remains deeply troubled by the reports and allegations regarding Bill Cosby," the statement read. "As stated previously, Johns Hopkins has a set of values we seek to uphold and we continue to closely monitor all developments related to this matter. We exercise great care and deliberation in awarding an honorary degree and would do so in the event of revoking one."

Lili Bernard, a Hopkins parent who appeared on *The Cosby Show* in the 1990s has since come forward with accusations against Cosby. In October 2015, she contacted the Sexual Assault Resource Unit (SARU) asking them to assist her in calling on the University to revoke Cosby's degree.

"Revoking this degree would be a show of support from the administration for survivors."

— MAYURI
VISWANATHAN,
CO-DIRECTOR OF SARU

Bernard, who is the mother of junior Rafael Ferguson, met that semester with members of SARU and University officials Maureen Marsh, the secretary of the Board

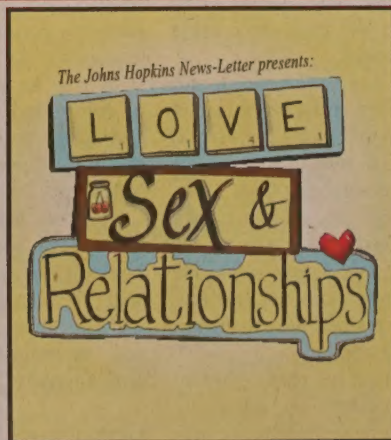
of Trustees, and Paul Pineau, the Board's vice president and general counsel. During the meeting, Bernard said that she shared her story and had two witnesses testify on her behalf.

At the time, the University stated that it was "actively reviewing" Cosby's honorary degree but ultimately did not revoke it. In the months following, Bernard sent several follow-up emails to inquire about the status of the University's decision.

"What is particularly disturbing about the apathy, the disregard and the disrespect that JHU has shown for me in my plea to revoke Bill Cosby's honorary doctorate

SEE COSBY, PAGE A6

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Just in time for Valentine's

Take a look inside the fold for our Valentine's Day-themed special edition: *Love, Sex and Relationships*. Our writers explore long-distance relationships, heartbreak, vulnerability, sexuality and a whole lot more.

— WITH LOVE, THE NEWS-LETTER

SGA calls for more funding for PILOT

By ANNA GORDON
Staff Writer

In their meeting on Tuesday, the Student Government Association (SGA) addressed requests for funding from student groups and passed a resolution calling on Hopkins to increase funding for PILOT, a student-led tutoring program.

SGA voted to give the student group Global China Connection a budget of \$1500 for an event they plan to host in which they would bring speakers to campus to discuss developments in the healthtech world.

Junior Jillian Ho, co-president of Global China Connection, said that she thought the forum would be an excellent experience for students.

"We believe the forum is a great opportunity for Hopkins to increase its international presence and also to increase the students' global awareness by facilitating exchanges between medical leaders from China and the U.S.," she said.

Hopkins Organization for Pre-Health Education (HOPE) focuses on increasing minority representation in the health professions and also raising awareness of racial health disparities.

HOPE requested \$1000 to help fund a trip for four students to attend the Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) hosted by the Student National Medical Association. This year, the conference is taking place in San Francisco.

Junior Karissa Avignon, a member of HOPE, said that the conference often made a big difference for underrepresented students applying to medical school.

"Students who have gone in the past three years... have been able to gain lots of resources which they are able to implement into programming," she said. "For example, some of the students... who are now alumni, they're coming back for alumni weekend and they're going to share what they learned."

Avignon felt that the conference enabled students to ready themselves for medical school applications.

"Most of the people who have gone said that they felt more prepared applying to medical school," he said. "AMEC can really help [underrepresented] students in the application process."

Senior class president Kwame Alston voiced concerns about the use of SGA funds for something only four students could attend.

SGA also unanimously passed a resolution regarding PILOT. Since covered grades were removed this past year, the demand for PILOT tutoring increased significantly in the fall, leading to reduced funding for the program.

The resolution calls for the administration to increase funding for PILOT. Additionally, it requests expansion of PILOT to humanities and social sciences classes. As of now, most PILOT courses are geared towards STEM classes.

Students commemorate the one-year anniversary of the LaB

By TRISHA PARAYIL
Staff Writer

The LaB hosted its First Birthday Bash in celebration of its first anniversary on Friday, Feb. 9. JHUnions, a programming organization under the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement (SLI), hosted the event.

At the Bash, students got to try free samples of food and received Hopkins giveaways like posters, frisbees, cups and stickers. They also took pictures with the Blue Jay mascot.

The LaB, along with Levering Hall and the Mattin Center, is one of three main spaces where JHUnions holds events.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Caitlin Tumey, the coordinator of union programming in the Office of Student Leadership and Involvement (SLI), wrote that the LaB continues to serve as a late-night social space for students.

"The LaB offers a unique atmosphere, dining options and programming that is not available at other campus locations," she wrote.

According to Tumey, the anniversaries of spaces on campus are rarely acknowledged, so JHUnions decided to celebrate the first anniversary of the LaB's opening.

Since its opening, JHUnions has provided programming at the LaB, which includes weekly events such as JHUnions Trivia on Monday nights and gaming on Sunday evenings with Smash@JHU.

At the beginning of the academic year, lounge spaces were removed from Nolan's on 33rd as part of an effort to redirect programming towards the LaB and the FFC. Additions to the LaB this year include a shuffleboard table and a Nintendo Switch gaming console.

Tumey wrote that in order to increase programming, JHUnions plans to increase collaboration with more student organizations.

"This year, JHUnions have been able to work closely with several student organizations to host their events in the LaB," she wrote. "Our goal is to continue to build

partnerships across campus for students to take advantage of this space."

As an example, Tumey noted when the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) and JHUnions co-sponsored the Black History Month grand opening ceremony at the LaB.

While the Birthday Bash was some students' first time at the LaB, others like freshman Mary Joseph, have gone before and enjoyed their experience there.

"I went to the LaB for the first time during O-Week for trivia one night, and I really liked it. I've liked it since," she said.

Sophomore Peyton Adair frequents the LaB and enjoys its food and social events.

"One time they had a karaoke night. I didn't participate, but it was really entertaining to watch other people," Adair said.

Students like senior Kaylynn Sanders also complimented the LaB's various programs.

"I liked the Stand-up Comedy Show that they did here," Sanders said. "I remember them doing [a



FILE PHOTO
The LaB, serves food, along with hosting game nights and other activities.

screening of] *La La Land* one day, that was fun."

However, she believes that the LaB's location makes it difficult to go there and hang out with friends.

"I don't think a lot of sophomores come out unless they live in Homewood," she said. "Commons has more students living in it, so everyone is centered there."

Freshman Anisha Palasamudrum agreed that the LaB is a little far, but she nevertheless enjoys its atmosphere and food.

"I remember we went there for milkshakes once, and we were only going to go for milkshakes, but we ending up staying there for a couple hours just sitting

and talking," she said.

Senior Rachel Mueller has seen many groups of students come to the LaB regularly, particularly Residential Advisors (RAs). Mueller uses the LaB as both a social and study area and finds its late hours convenient.

"I'm not super productive in my house, so I like going somewhere else on campus," she said. "This is a good, relaxed space for me."

Tumey looks forward to continue developing programming at the LaB.

"We have seen great turnout and participation at events held in the LaB to include JHUnions' weekly events and co-sponsored events," she wrote.

What do Hopkins students think about love and relationships?

By RUDY MALCOM
Staff Writer
& SIRI TUMMALA
Senior Staff Writer

Another Valentine's Day has come and gone, leading many students to reflect on their love lives and relationship statuses. But how do people really experience love at Hopkins? *The News-Letter* sat down with eight students who shared their thoughts on balancing academics and relationships; dating apps and hookup culture; and Valentine's Day plans.

The pressure of academics

Freshman Alia Nelson said that many students prioritize their academics and careers over finding love.

"A lot of people here are motivated by academics: getting that really great resume, getting into medical school or graduate school," she said. "They want to find that great job and then find true love."

Though she is currently single, Nelson believes that managing one's time is key to balancing academics and relationships.

"[Hopkins] takes up a lot of time, but it would also make me want to try harder with someone," she said. "It's more like real life because in real life you're not going to have that much time — you're going to have a job."

Freshman David Francisco has been dating his boyfriend for seven months and said that he is able to see him most nights, despite his heavy workload. He warned that balancing academics and a relationship at Hopkins can be difficult.

"You're here because you're trying to... do something bigger with your life," he said. "If you have poor time management skills and you're really busy, you can't also be in a relationship."

Francisco prioritizes academics over his relationship.

"I'm too ambitious to let men get in the way of my rise to power," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Senior Anwesha Dubey

has been dating fellow senior Abhi Bathini for a year and a half. They are both pre-med, which they said makes it easier for them to see each other regularly.

"We spend all of our time together when we're not doing something else," she said. "We can focus on our individual things during the day without a problem."

Dubey found it difficult to say whether her academic life or her relationship was more important.

"That's like choosing between my life and my other life," she said. "My academic stuff is so integral to the person I want to become... My relationship is still an aspect of me. I can't prioritize me above me."

Junior Taz Shah has been with her boyfriend for six months. She discussed how she focuses on her own happiness, despite a preoccupation with the future that many Hopkins students feel.

"I want to be happy first," she said. "That's not a lot of people's priority at Hopkins, which makes it hard to have relationships here."

She noted that she sees an ideal relationship as one in which two individuals encourage each other to grow. Having to worry about the grades and responsibilities of one's significant other, Shah added, can make a relationship less enjoyable.

Apps, hookups and more

Shah described her experience with dating apps, which she tried once for a few weeks.

"It was hard for me to put a picture and a name on my screen to the idea that I could be in a relationship... with this person," she said.

Freshman Aubin Lohier observed that many of his peers use dating apps. He currently does not use any but explained why that soon may change.

"I find it's really hard to date otherwise, especially for a college student, because you can't go out and socialize all that often," he said. "I may have a Tinder pretty soon."

Nelson feels that although students explore diverse academic interests, meeting people in different majors is difficult. She had not planned to use dating apps upon coming to college, but she now believes they help her find relationship prospects.

Shah, however, wrote in an email to *The News-Letter* that she finds that many use Tinder primarily as a distraction.

"I've seen people take out their phones in lecture and swipe," she wrote.

Others use Tinder to find short-term hookups. Lohier surmised that there are two categories of Hopkins students: those who hook up all the time and those who never do.

"I feel like the first camp... is way more the goal because everyone's super stressed," he said. "Everyone needs a way just to release — in more ways than one."

Shah added that hookup culture might be especially prevalent at Hopkins due to its "high-stress" climate.

Nelson, however, thinks that hooking up is a waste of time.

"I want something that's real," she said.

Nelson and Shah both suspect that many turn to hookups because they find academics to be too demanding to balance with a committed relationship. Dubey suggested that this might be especially true on Valentine's Day.

"It may become one of those days where you just hook up with someone," she said. "At the root of it, people want to form relationships, not necessarily romantic ones anymore."

Long-distance relationships

At the beginning of the semester, Nelson was dating a student from her high

school. While she thinks that relationship ended due to incompatibility, she believes that long-distance relationships can flourish if the couple strives for openness and communication. However, Nelson finds these relationships complicated.

"Doing ordinary things becomes very hard to explain to [your partner]," she said. "If they're here, you can kind of just enjoy that together."

Dubey imagined how her relationship would change when it becomes long-distance after they graduate in the spring.

"We see ourselves in this for the long haul. We're preparing to be apart for a long time because of medical school," she said. "We're not going to be able to spend 9 p.m. onwards together at night, so we'll probably text more."

Valentine's Day

Shah had work until midnight on Valentine's Day evening, but said she wished she were seeing a movie with her boyfriend, who she considers her best friend.

"Ideally, I'd be eating fried chicken that I snuck into a movie theater playing *Penguins of Madagascar*, which I

think is the most romantic of nights," she said.

Francisco was not sure how he and his boyfriend would spend the evening.

"I don't know what he has planned," he said. "I'm going to get him one of those *Insomnia Cookies* cakes if they're not too expensive. Don't need to blow more than \$20 on that."

Lohier agreed that money can limit Valentine's Day festivities. After noting that he would study or (more likely) nap after lecture that day, he imagined what he would be doing if he were dating someone.

"I wish I were spending time with my non-imaginary significant other," he said. "Hopefully we'd go to a nice dinner... It's hard, as a college student, because you can't do anything too crazy."

Though also single, Nelson said she did not wish she were with someone for Valentine's Day.

"I don't want to go on a date that day," she said. "I would rather spend time with friends — people I know I definitely love."

Bathini said that he was planning to take Dubey out to dinner, but his ideal Valentine's day would be travelling to a city in another country. Dubey said she wished she could dress up and eat first-rate cheesecake with Bathini. She said, however, that their night would likely entail procrastinating and watching a movie.

Errata: Feb. 1 & Feb. 8 Edition

In the Feb. 1, 2018 edition of *The News-Letter*, the quotes by Leonardo Lisi, Benjamin Stein and Paula Marchesini in the original article did not accurately reflect the speaker's quotes as they were spoken.

In the Feb. 8, 2018 edition of *The News-Letter*, The original article stated that there were 343 homicides in Baltimore in 2017. On Friday, Feb. 2, Baltimore Police announced that a double-fatal shooting has been ruled justified, reducing the number of homicides from 343 to 341. The article also stated that the rate of killings per capita was 55.8 per 100,000 residents. It is now 55.5 per 100,000 residents.

The News-Letter regrets these errors.

Councilman discusses education in Baltimore

By KATY WILNER
Staff Writer

The Black Education and Empowerment Forum (BEEF) hosted Baltimore City Councilman Zeke Cohen on Feb. 8. BEEF is a student-run program organized by the Black Student Union (BSU) that invites guest speakers to campus.

Senior Kwame Alston, the president of BSU, discussed the purpose of BEEF.

“BEEF has existed since the BSU was founded,” Alston said. “It’s a way for the BSU to bring in a guest speaker to talk to our general student body members and show them how they can become active politically.”

Councilman Cohen, who currently represents District 1, started his career as a teacher at the school Freddie Gray attended in West Baltimore. This school, Cohen said, resembled a prison more than a school — the students dealt with lead poisoning, insufficient funding and extreme temperatures.

As the chair of the Education and Youth Committee, Cohen is working to gain funding for

“If we want to build a better democracy we have to do it in relationship to people.”

— ZEKE COHEN, CITY COUNCILMAN

public education in the City, including rebuilding out-dated schools. “Our schools are the oldest schools in the state,” he said. Cohen also emphasized

the need to connect with young people. Instead of holding the Committee meetings in City Hall like other organizations do, Cohen holds meetings in schools and rec centers.

“If we want to build a better democracy, we have to do it in relationship to people, and not just behind the walls of City Hall,” he said.

Cohen spoke briefly about the history of political and racial injustices in Baltimore and how those histories curated a segregated city. He discussed the City’s former steel industry and how when the factories went under, many people were left without an income, and consequently drug and crime rates went up.

Cohen noted that minorities in these situations are often shortchanged for reasons rooted in white supremacy and segregation. For example, he said that housing segregation was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in 1917, yet many community associations in Baltimore created racist housing covenants.

“The people of Roland Park decided that if you are Jewish or black, you can’t live here,” Cohen said. “That practice continued into the ‘40s, when we had redlining.”

Redlining further increased racial divides because banks would not allow African Americans to take out mortgages on their homes. Residents in predominantly black neighborhoods had to pay for their homes by means of contract lenders, where if a single

payment was late, residents lost all equity in their house and were evicted. These areas soon became very poor and received little government funding.

Cohen discussed how even now, government funding is being cut from programs intended to improve these areas, including after school programs for children. He emphasized a need for public transportation to and from these events.

“Baltimore’s public transit is woefully inadequate for a 21st century city,” he said.

In the past, Cohen explained, Baltimore students were allowed to ride the city bus for free to get to and from school, as the school district did not provide school buses. Students, with a bus pass, were able to ride the city bus from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

However, these hours were cut to 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. due to lack of funds, according to officials. Cohen, however, stated that it was probably due to the fact that the buses did not want to have youths boarding at night after having received many complaints from passengers.

Cohen argued that taking away these two hours of free transit deterred kids from participating in after school activities or working an after school job. He reached out to the community for input on how to solve this problem, and one student suggested hosting a bake sale to raise the funds required to pay for the added two hours of student bus time. Students ultimately raised thousands of dollars through the sale.

Cohen said that in addition to raising money, this bake sale was supposed to be a wake up call for people in power to hear the concerns of those they are representing. On that note, Cohen called for the audience to voice their ideas and to stand up for their political beliefs. Alston discussed how Cohen’s talk, which stressed the importance of student ideas and initiative, dealt with BEEF’s theme of political activism.

“Students see so much going on at the national level that they forget that there’s small government working, where we can get involved and make some change,” Alston said.

BSU Vice President Chisom Okereke said that she knew she wanted to invite Cohen to speak after he gave a lecture for a public health course that she took. “I really thought that his message and the passion behind this message was something that would really resonate with the student body,” Okereke said. The next BEEF event is still in its planning phase, but Okereke said that the BSU is currently reaching out to potential speakers.

“We’re looking for any speaker that would portray a message of action,” she said.

Confederate site rededicated to Harriet Tubman



FILE PHOTO

The Lee-Jackson confederate monument was removed from Wyman Park Dell in August.

By JAMIE SCHARF
Staff Writer
& VANCE WOOD
For The News-Letter

The Baltimore City Council approved legislation on Feb. 5 to rededicate the site of a former Confederate monument to Harriet Tubman.

A portion of Wyman Park Dell, a park near Homewood Campus, will be named after Tubman, who was a Maryland-born slave and conductor of the Underground Railroad. In August 2017, the City removed four Confederate monuments, including a statue of Robert E. Lee and Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson in Wyman Park Dell.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, City Councilwoman Mary Pat Clarke, who represents the 14th district, which includes Charles Village and the surrounding area, said that the site will be rededicated as the “Harriet Tubman Grove” on March 10. Clarke introduced the rededication legislation in October 2017.

“Just as Harriet Tubman led hundreds from slavery and hundreds of Union soldiers during the Civil War, she is now helping lead Bal-

timore’s reclamation of our four former confederate sites, as a place of community gathering and peaceful contemplation,” she wrote.

The original Lee-Jackson Monument was erected in 1948. It was originally built to portray the men as “Christian soldiers.”

Nathan Connolly, the Herbert Baxter Adams associate professor of history at Hopkins, explained the symbolism of the original statues.

“Statues in general, particularly around the time of slavery and Jim Crow, have so much to carry as narratives, as icons, as pieces of the furniture of our democracy,” Connolly said.

According to Connolly, the statues may have reflected the response of white Baltimoreans to the gradual movement of increasing the rights of African Americans around 1948.

“It was really important for people in the city of Baltimore to reassert the history of the confederacy after 1947-48 — the reason being that there was already a sense that the federal government was going to be much more responsive to African Amer-

ican needs,” Connolly said.

Connolly explained that most of the former Confederate statues were located in historically white parts of Baltimore because of a long history of memorializing the Confederacy.

Ryan Patterson, the president of the Friends of Wyman Park Dell board, explained how the idea for the rededication came about.

“There were a lot of people who thought it’d be great, and they brought this petition to Mary Pat Clark, our council person, asking for that,” he said. “Mary Pat asked the Friends and we were very supportive, with some parameters around it. It was a conversation.”

As the president of the board, Patterson is committed to preserving and maintaining the park. He also serves to gather feedback on issues of importance, like the future of the Confederate monuments.

When asked about the role of the board in the rededication of the park, Patterson said that they mainly served to facilitate conversations.

“The friends group didn’t take a stance during that debate,” he said. “It was more of a stance of ‘we’re here to really listen to our constituents.’”

When asked about his personal opinions on the removal of the monument,

he said that it was definitely the correct decision for the community but wanted others to recognize that the Lee-Jackson monument was made by a female artist.

“It’s a loss only in that it was the only sculpture of its kind that we have from a female artist, and I wish that story was told more,” Patterson said.

Freshman Nick Sloan commended the city’s decision.

“I thought it was a pretty progressive and appropriate step given that we have a very diverse community,” Sloan said.

He sees public monuments as representative of the ideas that a society believes in and thinks that the City should destroy them.

“A monument shows that we’re proud of the history that it represents. I don’t think that we’re proud of slavery. So we shouldn’t commemorate the people that fought for it,” Sloan said.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, freshman Zachary Wheeler echoed many of Sloan’s sentiments. He thinks that the City Council responded appropriately to widespread public opposition to the monuments.

“I believe that the election of Donald Trump gave many cities in America the shock that was needed in order for people to remember that these statues were controversial,” Wheeler wrote.

Instead of destroying the statues, Wheeler believes that they should be moved.

“It is important to understand the past and learn from it,” Wheeler wrote. “Placing these statues in museums would keep their historical value.”

Local artist’s work addresses slavery and racism

By PETER JI
Senior Staff Writer

In celebration of Black Heritage Month, the Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) hosted an exhibit by Paul Rucker, a Baltimore-based artist whom *Baltimore Magazine* named the city’s “Best Artist” of 2015. The exhibit ran from Feb. 8-9.

The pieces were part of *REWIND*, Rucker’s largest installation yet. The exhibit uses historical artifacts, music and visual media to shed light on slavery and racism in American history and its continued effects on society.

Rucker, who is also a cellist and composer, has won many awards for his work. Most recently, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2015 from the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping gifted or skilled people work with creative freedom. He has also completed a residency at the Maryland Institute College of Art.

Rucker, whose studio is at Baltimore’s Creative Alliance, thanked Hopkins for displaying his work at the opening day of the exhibit. He went on to explain the meaning behind his work.

“It’s irresponsible to display work without community engagement,” he said. “This could be the start of conversations about disparities and inequalities that we see in Baltimore everyday.”

Rucker is known for incorporating music with his visual displays in the

form of original compositions. In order to bring attention to the history of slavery in Baltimore, Rucker lit up locations in the City where African Americans were once sold as slaves during the first Light City Baltimore festival in 2016. These installations were accompanied by a cello composition.

Slavery was a central theme of the OMA exhibit, which included artifacts such as a ball and chain, branding irons, fishing bobbers with bound slaves and derogatory books that caricatured black people.

The exhibit also alluded to contemporary social issues, including a tarp displaying a faceless, hooded figure carrying Skittles and Arizona tea to represent Trayvon Martin, a black teen whose death started the Black Lives Matter movement.

A second tarp of the same size shows a promotion for a 1915 film *The Birth of a Nation* by D.W. Griffith, known for its offensive portrayal of black men. The film triggered protests upon its release.

Rucker says that the artifacts, most of which he collects from auctions and the online auction site eBay, serve as living proof of racism in the U.S.

“Objects tell stories, and when you have objects, it makes it real. No one can deny slaves were branded if you have branding irons with DNA of slaves on them,” he said. “They were branded when they got here,

when they worked on the plantations and runaways were branded as punishment if they were caught.”

He added that he hoped to show the reality of slavery’s impact through his art.

“We don’t have the residue of slavery,” he said. “Around Hopkins, it should be addressed. There’s the legacy of slavery in the Inner Harbor and if you go down there, that story is not acknowledged at all.”

Next to his exhibit in OMA is a musical video that starts with a map of the U.S. As a cello plays, dots proliferate on the screen to show the locations of prisons over the last 100 years.

The video refers to the prison-industrial complex, a result of the exploitation of prisoners for cheap labor. Studies show that the rise in incarceration rates disproportionately affects people of color.

Rucker included several wooden cutouts of cellos, which he said represent human bodies. *REWIND* also includes a newspaper that

describes the history of injustices in the U.S., from slavery to excessive police force.

He hopes that his work serves as a catalyst for activism and dialogue.

“We actually need to look at history, how things have been repeating over and over again,” he said. “We went through the exact same thing in the country 100 years ago, American Protectionism, anti-immigration. We can’t have intelligent discussions surrounding the issues unless we are informed about what happened.”

Rucker hopes that *REWIND* helps people reflect more thoughtfully on racism as a continuity in the U.S. He also hopes that people will be able to come with personal understandings of his artwork.

“Everyone brings in their own experience to the gallery. [In the audience], you have a large diverse group of people who came from different parts of the world,” he said. “Every country has its own history of atrocity.”



COURTESY OF PETER JI

Paul Rucker’s exhibit incorporated historical artifacts, music and film.

NEWS & FEATURES

TurboVote seeks to ease student voter registration

By **EMILY MCDONALD**
Staff Writer

To increase student voter turnout, Hopkins recently partnered with TurboVote, an online voting registration service. Over 300 universities have partnered with TurboVote, which was created by nonprofit and nonpartisan group Democracy Works. Its co-founders wanted to create a way for people to be aware of election dates and registration deadlines, especially for local and special elections.

TurboVote's services include walking students through the voter registration process, notifying students via text or email about upcoming elections in the district where they are registered, and sending absentee ballot request forms with a pre-stamped and pre-addressed envelope. TurboVote also has a free 24-hour hotline to answer any questions students may have about the voting process.

The process to register takes three to five minutes and is free of charge for anyone affiliated with the University.

Sophomore Class President Anthony Boutros, head of the Student Government Association (SGA)'s Civic Engagement Committee, helped implement TurboVote at Hopkins after he realized that many students had not voted in the 2016 U.S. presidential elections because they had missed the voter registration deadline.

"I was like 'this is unacceptable,'" he said. "It is a fundamental right and responsibility of people to vote when they live in a democratic institution."

Boutros has been working with SGA for over a year to get TurboVote approved at Hopkins. The program, which costs \$2500 for this academic year, was financed partially by the Office of Student Life and partially by the SGA.

In an email to *The News-Letter*, Gia Grier McGinnis, the interim director for the Center for Social Concern (CSC), addressed SGA's role in implementing TurboVote at Hopkins.

"Student leaders in SGA's Civic Engagement Committee are the reason why we have this amazing tool," she wrote. "TurboVote was used on many other campuses and was an easy to use and highly successful way of getting eligible students to vote."

Grier McGinnis also discussed the role that CSC will play in promoting TurboVote in the future.

"The administration has already been supportive of other civic engagement efforts and this is just one more pathway for students to be energized and engaged about the social and political issues impacting their communities," she wrote.

Statistically, voter turnout for younger generations has been significantly lower than others. Boutros believes that TurboVote will fix some of the underlying

causes of this disparity.

He also noted that turnout for state or special elections is lower than turnout for general elections, especially among university students. He believes that this is partially due to students' distance from home.

"It's easier when you are established in a community and have been there for 30 years to vote in a local election or a state election, than when you know you're moving around a lot, you're starting out in a job or university," he said.

"It is a fundamental right and responsibility of people to vote."

— **ANTHONY BOUTROS, SOPHOMORE CLASS PRESIDENT**

Boutros discussed the differences in voter registration requirements in different states. He noted that many students do not know how to register to vote or to request an absentee ballot.

"With all these regulations and variability it becomes more cumbersome, and we don't take the time to do it because we see it as a net loss," he said. "TurboVote addresses it and makes it a net gain."

Boutros urged students to take advantage of TurboVote in an effort to impact political decisions that directly influence their lives.

"Politics is exceptionally important in all areas of everything that we do, and it is necessary for us to use our agency and make our voice heard in these decisions," he said.

Freshman Class President Sam Schatmeyer, who has also been working to implement TurboVote at Hopkins, believes that the service will help Hopkins students be more politically active.

"Programs like this, that make it really easy and intuitive on an online platform, really help increase youth voter turnout," he said.

Schatmeyer believes that voting is the easiest way for students to get politically involved and that they therefore are obligated to vote.

"To be left out [of voting] is to be left out of the decisions that are going to affect our lives every day," he said.

Sophomore Victoria Li, the president of Discourse, a student organization which holds Oxford Union style debates on political issues, praised TurboVote.

"That very much speaks to the mission of Discourse as well, because we want to allow different opinions to be heard, and the act of voting is you being present and saying 'this is my opinion and I stand for it,'" she said.

Li believes that services such as TurboVote, which help keep users politically informed, are an important step in becoming more socially active.

"To be politically active you need to understand what has been going on," she said. "Then you can understand what needs to occur, in your own opinion, and then you can start fighting for it."

SGA is in the process of familiarizing students with TurboVote and helping them register for its services.

Undergraduates join community push against foam

FOAM BAN, FROM A1

why we've had success with this bill and why we're going to have the momentum to get it through," he said.

Baltimore physician Dr. Richard Bruno, who received his Master's at the Bloomberg School of Public Health, talked about the impact of polystyrene foam on Baltimore City, particularly in bodies of water.

"There's 420,000 polystyrene containers that have been collected in the Jones Falls Water Wheel in the past couple of years," he said. "That's one for every adult in Baltimore."

Gong agreed with Bruno, addressing the non-biodegradable nature of polystyrene. He said that he was inspired to get involved with the effort because of the Styrofoam in lunch trays used by Baltimore City Public Schools.

In its initial stages, the bill was sponsored by City Councilman John Bullock, who was, according to Wayner, responsible for a lot of the activism that helped the bill gather support in City Council.

As activism among Baltimore schoolchildren increased, City Council President Bernard 'Jack' Young, though initially opposed to the bill, changed his position on it.

Wayner discussed the process of gathering support for the bill during the

five months between its initial sponsorship by Bullock and its hearing on Feb. 6.

"In between that time window, we sent a couple groups of students to visit City Hall and talk with their council member, just small visits," Wayner said. "We heard that those really impressed the Council President and Councilman [Eric] Costello."

In addition to Baltimore students, SEA members worked with and were trained by BBP to gather support from different members and organizations in the community.

Sophomore SEA member Alex Walinskas addressed SEA's involvement in the effort to bring the bill to the City Council.

"We have been working with [BBP] to go to different community associations in the city, explain this legislation to them and ask them to support it," Walinskas said. "This has been a really good opportunity for us to push our activism into the city of Baltimore."

Additional support for the bill from within the Baltimore community came from other non-profit organizations such as: Blue Water Baltimore; Mr. Trash Wheel; Trash Free Maryland; and Healthy Harbor.

Similar bills to ban polystyrene foam products were proposed in 2006, 2008 and 2012 and failed to



COURTESY OF MICHEL ANDERSON

Activists gathered outside City Hall on Feb. 6 to rally against Styrofoam.

pass because of opposition from local businesses and Styrofoam manufacturing companies.

The BBP decided to focus on lobbying local businesses and recognize the impact that the Styrofoam ban may have on them.

Gong's primary role on the BBP team was to talk to community associations and survey small businesses about how the ban would affect them.

"The advocacy work that I do is collecting letters of support for the bill," Gong said. "Letters of support from community members and small businesses have a pretty large impact on City Council members."

Businesses like Ajumma Cuisine on N. Charles Street are concerned with the financial impact of the ban. Ajumma Manager June Ban discussed the possible challenges of having to stop using Styrofoam.

"It might cost more at this point to change into

the new system," Ban said. "If the City offered support for changing food containers to any other substances, that might be a better idea."

Though he did not oppose the ban, he emphasized the importance of having a longer transition period so restaurants could adjust to using other materials.

Wayner added that BBP pushed for an amendment to the bill that increased its implementation period from 90 days to 18 months.

"We are looking forward to working with the health department and other groups just to make sure that this transition is as equitable as possible," Wayner said. "The alternative [materials], over time, can drop in price with increased demand."

Both Wayner and Gong also talked about restaurants that are already in the process of phasing out Styrofoam containers, which would reduce the impact of the ban on their profits.

Tamber's Carry Out Manager Holly Martin agreed, adding that the ban would not necessarily be inconvenient for them.

"A good chunk of our containers are already paper or plastic. We would just switch out the remainder of our [Styrofoam] containers," she said.

According to Gong, alternative materials are only two to six cents more expensive than Styrofoam.

"In terms of smaller businesses who have low profit margins, other jurisdictions have implemented hardship waivers that would provide economic aid," he said.

Bruno said that Styrofoam should have been phased out of commercial use several years ago.

"It's been 16 years since the initial classification of styrene as a possible human carcinogen," he said. "The toxin has no place in our body or our schools or our restaurants or our homes."

Though polystyrene foam recycling facilities do exist, Bruno said that they are not necessarily accessible.

"There's a few very rare Styrofoam recycling facilities that recycle the big Styrofoam blocks that come in big packages or furniture. But even then, it's very difficult for people to utilize them," he said.

In the process of developing the bill, Bruno provided expert testimony last year in the state legislature and said that he was followed by a member of an organization funded by Dow Chemicals, who claimed Bruno's testimony was false.

"Unfortunately, when you get well-funded, very entrenched moneyed interests on these things, they're going to do whatever they can to prevent the data from coming to light," he said.

Show Your Love promotes LGBTQ visibility

By **KELECHI NWANKWOALA**
For *The News-Letter*

This week, the Office of LGBTQ Life launched their Show Your Love campaign, in which they invited students to show their support for the LGBTQ community by wearing rainbow ribbons around campus. Students could pick up these ribbons from over 30 sites on campus.

The Office of LGBTQ Life provides support, education and advocacy for the LGBTQ community. This campaign, in part, encompasses all of these imperatives.

Demere Woolway, the director of LGBTQ life, explained how she got the idea for the campaign.

"The idea came from a conversation with Community Council, which includes representatives from the different LGBTQ organizations across Hopkins," she said. "We have folks from the Applied Physics Lab, from the Gertrude Stein society over at the med campus, as well as Homewood students. We were talking about what it would mean to do something really big and really visible."

Woolway said that she wanted to put on one big demonstration of support for the community.

"There were many people who wanted to be allies to the community but didn't necessarily know how," she said. "We wanted to make a really low barrier for entry, make it really easy to show your support and just pull as many people along as we could."

According to Woolway, this campaign is part of the Office of LGBTQ Life's general emphasis on providing a multitude of ways to get involved. Woolway believes that providing opportunities that have varying amounts of commitment increases total support and engagement.

"We're always interested in anything that helps students engage with the community, whether that is through creating small group discussions or whether that's through large scale programs with speakers, or our educational programs," she said. "We just try to provide many different ways for engaging. And that's why Show Your Love is great, because it's a small thing that's available for anyone to participate in."

Still, Woolway recognizes the potential dangers of students simply posing, or performing, as allies of the LGBTQ community. She feels as though events like these become performative when people do them because they feel like they have to. How-

ever, she stressed that the LGBTQ community gives those who want to help and support an avenue to do so, which she believes is good.

The campaign culminated in a celebration Wednesday afternoon to thank people for their support. The celebration was held in Martin, and the room was decorated with rainbow banners and flags. The Office brought cookies, cupcakes and candy, as well as arts and crafts.

Students were encouraged to come, hang out and build community. Freshman Brittany Zak described her experience at the event.

"They had a really good spread and a lot of art activities," she said. "It's nice to have an event specifically to show your love in the gay community. I feel really comfortable with DSAGA [Diverse Sexuality And Gender Alliance] and the Office of LGBTQ Life."

Other students shared a similar sentiment. Some, like freshman Jason Souvaliotis, appreciated the community the Office has cultivated.

"Getting to know people better who are in similar communities as you is just good," he said.

Zak expanded on why the LGBTQ community at Hopkins is so special to her.

"There was no such thing as the gay community at my old high school, so it's really cool to come here and see professors acknowledging that this group exists and that we have a right to be here," she said.

With over 2,100 ribbons distributed, many feel that the campaign was a success. Woolway plans on continuing to advocate for long-term institutional changes, as well as adding more ways for people to engage with the LGBTQ community.



COURTESY OF ALYSSA WOODEN

Show Your Love sought to support the Hopkins LGBTQ community.

NEWS & FEATURES

Refuel holds rally for Global Divestment Day

DIVEST, FROM A1

While Elawad felt that attendance would have been greater if they had scheduled the event over the weekend, the rally was purposely scheduled to coincide with Global Divestment Day.

"Divestment is a global movement. We are not alone," Elawad said. "This is one small part of a much larger machine that's trying to get institutions to divest from the fossil fuel industry."

Chen said that she had initially expected fewer demonstrators and that attendance was as good as it could have been on a Tuesday afternoon.

"The people who came were super passionate," Chen said. "Having everyone there — especially when students were walking on the quads — was so impactful. We were able to project our voices, and it echoed, and people heard us and knew that we were there."

The rally was Refuel's first public demonstration since PIIAC made its recommendations. Refuel member Morgan Balster, who co-authored an op-ed in *The Baltimore Sun* in December criticizing the Board's decision, compared the rally to those held in previous years.

"This one is a little more angry. Before, we were always working within the system, and the system failed us," Balster said. "The school used [divesting from thermal coal] as a PR spin to try and shut us up while still looking good."

Elawad said that the Board's announcement and a subsequent email from University President Ronald J. Daniels misled many of their supporters into thinking that the Board's decision satisfied Refuel's demands.

"I got so many congratulations texts on the day that the Board released their decision, because people assumed that the divestment was complete," Elawad said. "They didn't fully understand the implications of the Board's decision."

Lalit Varada, a member of Refuel, said that the University divesting from thermal coal is hardly worth celebrating.

"No one's invested in thermal coal. It's dying," Varada said. "It's a step forward, but it's not enough."

During the rally, Elawad and Chen urged demonstrators to sign an online

pledge promising to withhold any future donations from the University until it fully divests. Refuel is also asking seniors and rising seniors to sign the pledge and withhold their senior class gifts.

To seniors who have already given donations, Elawad recommends that they discourage their peers from doing the same.

Sophomore Refuel member Colin Bowen hopes that the pledge will result in a noticeable drop in donations and incentivize the Board to reconsider their decision.

"Divestment is a global movement... This is one small part of a much larger machine."

— ATLAS ELAWAD, REFUEL PRESIDENT

"Alumni satisfaction is one of the criteria for ranking universities and is tied to donations," he said. "If they don't want to keep sliding down the ladder, that's going to be something they're going to have to look at. This is definitely how we can hit them where it hurts."

The pledge, which is available on Refuel's Facebook page, has over 100 signatures and counting as of Tuesday. Chen encouraged students to send the link to 10 of their friends and emphasized that the pledge would be ineffective unless it received mass support.

"Every single year we pay Hopkins a ridiculous, atrocious amount of money," she said. "They should be responsible to our communities and global environment, especially given that we are a public health institution."

Until the University fully divests, Chen and Elawad intend for Refuel to remain active and continue holding public demonstrations.

"We have a number of ideas we want to execute over the semester, and people will find out about those as they come," Elawad said.

Elawad also encouraged students to join Refuel and to stay informed via Refuel's Facebook page.

"Just know that we still need the support of the student body," he said. "Stay engaged with us, rally behind us, help us out in whatever way you can."

At the rally, Chen told demonstrators that the University must be held accountable in serving the interests of the student body and its community partners.

"As student activists, we have the power to change what the University does, what we do as a student body and what our environment would be like in the next few years," she said. "We have absolutely no time to lose."

Foreign Affairs Symposium announces lineup

By JACOB TOOK
News & Features Editor

The Foreign Affairs Symposium (FAS) announced on Saturday that the theme of its spring 2018 lineup is "Ravel | Unravel." The speakers include: activist and Maryland senatorial candidate Chelsea Manning; former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power; and Hopkins alumni and humanitarian strategists Greg Asbed and Laura Germino.

Kat Gross, a senior International Studies major and an executive director of FAS, said that they chose "Ravel | Unravel" as their theme because it captures the tension of a polarized society.

"In our current sociopolitical landscape, we're seeing two contradictory phenomena — the coalescence of many different movements and new communities and institutions fighting against systemic injustice but also the unravelling of certain civil liberties," she said.

She added that many of this year's speakers are activists in communities that fight against the rise of "Trumpian" rhetoric. According to Gross, FAS hoped to highlight the manner in which activists build new communities to counter this rhetoric.

"Ravel | Unravel" builds on last year's theme of "Undercurrent," which Gross said featured speakers known for challenging the status quo.

"Sometimes there are institutions and norms that need to be challenged," she said. "In this lineup, we're looking also at how new communities are being created in the wake of the norms that are being broken down."

With the ongoing construction in Shriver Hall, FAS booked alternative spaces for each speaker. Most will be in the Hodson Hall auditorium, though others will be in the Mason or Mudd Hall auditoriums.

Gross said that Shriver's continued closure presented a challenge for FAS.

"We just had to think a bit more critically about the spaces we have available on campus," she said. "We didn't want to go off campus. Turner Auditorium on the med campus is lovely and larger, but the logistics of getting everyone there, we felt, would be a bit of a hassle."

She said that they will offer overflow rooms for some of the events, and they will also ticket the visits from Power and Manning.

The Museums & Society and Film & Media Studies programs will co-host the first event of the lineup, a panel on the intersection of comedy and politics and the growing importance of satire in contemporary politics, on Feb. 22.

Bentley Allan, an assistant professor of political science at Hopkins, will moderate a discussion between Saturday Night Live (SNL) writer Nimesh Patel, Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) political satire expert Sophia McClennen and Newseum Collections Curator Carrie Christoffersen.

Patel was the first South Asian writer employed full-time by SNL and wrote for fellow South Asian comedian Hasan Minhaj's set at the 2017 White House Cor-

respondents' Dinner. Patel gained popularity during the 2016 election because of his comedy's political edge.

McClennen founded the Center for Global Studies at Penn State. She specializes in political comedy and has published studies on subjects such as Stephen Colbert's satire after 9/11.

Christoffersen was part of the team which founded the Newseum in 1997, an interactive museum in D.C. which promotes freedom of speech. Her expertise include editorial cartoons, a form which commonly shows the intersection of comedy and politics.

According to Gross, the Museums & Society program will help FAS host a post-event reception that encourages attendees to continue the discussion about comedy.

For their second event, FAS partnered with European Horizons, a student group promoting discussions about European politics, to host İlker Başbuğ on March 6. Başbuğ served as the head of the Turkish military from 2008 to 2010.

In 2010 Başbuğ was convicted during the Ergenekon trials, in which almost 300 high-profile individuals in Turkey were accused of being members of Ergenekon, an alleged secret organization that was suspected of plotting to overthrow the Turkish government.

Başbuğ was first sentenced to life in prison, but this conviction was overturned four years later after he complained that his freedoms had been unlawfully violated. He remains popular, if controversial, in Turkey.

A week after Başbuğ, FAS will host former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power on March 13. Power's visit will be co-sponsored by the Aronson Center for International Studies and the Second Decade Society, a network of alumni leaders.

Power worked with then-Senator Barack Obama and served as a senior advisor to his 2008 campaign until she stepped down after referring to Hillary Clinton as a "monster."

In 2013, Obama nominated Power to represent the U.S. at the United Nations, where she advocated against human rights violations and genocide around the world. In 2015, *Forbes* named Power the 41st most powerful



TIM TRAVERS HAWKINS / CC BY-SA 4.0
American activist Chelsea Manning will be one of the speakers this spring.

woman in the world.

Gross said that FAS acknowledged some controversy around Power because of some recent criticism. In 2015 she came under fire for declining to comment on the Obama Administration's refusal to acknowledge the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide.

"With Samantha Power, I feel like we might have a little bit of controversy," Gross said. "She's often criticized the political establishment for turning a blind eye to mass violence and genocide around the world, but some have suggested that maybe she's complicit in various human rights abuses."

Like Power, Maryland senatorial candidate Chelsea Manning has long been a controversial figure, advocating for increased government transparency.

In 2013, she was convicted of leaking nearly 750,000 classified documents to the whistleblower organization WikiLeaks and sentenced to 35 years in prison. Obama commuted her sentence in Jan. 2017, and a year later she announced her campaign for senator of Maryland.

Manning also stirred controversy in the LGBTQ community after she came out as transgender the day after her prison sentence in 2013. The Office of LGBTQ Life and the Office of Women and Gender Resources will co-sponsor her visit on April 2.

Gross said that she hoped controversial speakers would prompt engagement and discussion among attendees and added that FAS does not anticipate protests at their events.

"Usually at FAS events, people know that all viewpoints are welcome as long as you express them in a peaceful, respectful manner," she said. "It's a space for producing vibrant discourse, and often tension just comes with that."

The Arrighi Center for Global Studies and the Johns Hopkins Alumni Association will co-sponsor the penultimate event, a visit from humanitarian workers and alumni of the School of Advanced International Studies Greg Asbed and Laura Germino on April 24.

Last year, Asbed was one of 24 individuals to receive the MacArthur fellowship, an award for \$650,000, for his advocacy on behalf of farm workers in Immokalee, Fla.

Asbed founded the Coalition of Immokalee Workers to fight against human rights violations such as workplace harassment, sexual harassment and wage theft at the hands of the large corporations.

In honor of their humanitarian work, FAS will honor Asbed and Germino with its annual Smedinghoff Award, named after former FAS director Anne Smedinghoff who was killed in a bomb blast in 2013 while delivering books to children in Afghanistan.

Gross said that Asbed and Germino were chosen to receive the award for the work they have done to empower minority labor communities in the negotiation process with corporations, which she said aligns with this year's theme.

"We look for organizations that embody Anne Smedinghoff's philanthropic spirit and desire to impact change in communities that have been underserved," Gross said. "We wanted to honor the work that they have done in helping to build communities."

FAS will host a final event at the end of the semester, though they have not released any details. According to Gross, FAS is still in communication with multiple nonprofits and non-governmental organizations to decide on the details of this event.



COURTESY OF SAM FOSSUM

The Divest the Rest rally on Tuesday drew over 40 demonstrators.

Celebrating Our 1st Anniversary!

SAM's

Canterbury Café

Quality Food. Exceptional Service. Meaningful Employment.

All Day Breakfast • Weekend Brunch • Free Wi-Fi • Zeke's Coffee
Croissants, Muffins & Desserts • Signature Flatbreads, Sandwiches, Soup & Salads
Book Exchange • Grab & Go: Online Ordering • Catering
DELIVERY COMING SOON!!

MISSION

Sam's Canterbury Café offers quality food and drink - while supporting individuals on the autistic spectrum by providing meaningful employment - as they continue their journey towards independence.

3811 Canterbury Road (@39th St.) | 443-438-4545
Monday-Friday 7-3 | Saturday & Sunday 9-5

SamsCanterburyCafe.com **Gift Certificates Available**

Bring in this ad for **ONE FREE SMALL COFFEE** thru 3.31.18 JHUNL218

NEWS & FEATURES

Hopkins will not rescind honorary Cosby degree



COURTESY OF LILI BERNARD
Lili Bernard and SARU members met with Hopkins administrators in 2015.

COSBY, FROM A1

is that I brought witnesses to the meeting — to the table, on video chat — and that wasn't enough," she said.

One of the witnesses was Nanci Brown, Bernard's agent at the time, and the other was a producer on *The Cosby Show* whose girlfriend was assaulted by Cosby.

"[Nanci] corroborated my story by telling them that she was absolutely aware of what Bill Cosby did because I told her back in the early 1990s as I was being abused," she said. "She also told them that she was trying to convince me to go to the police and that I was too terrified because he had threatened my life and made serious threats to me."

In addition, Bernard said that she shared evidence of her abuse.

"I have compelling evidence, and yet I can't do anything with that evidence because the incident occurred just slightly outside of the statute of limitations," she said.

Junior Mayuri Viswanathan and senior Dani Pitkoff, the current co-directors of SARU, said that they were also disappointed with the decision.

"Many of our peer institutions — most recently UPenn — have made this move," Viswanathan said. "It's clear that it is materially and symbolically important to show where our administration stands. They are really missing a clear opportunity here to show support for survivors."

Bernard said that UPenn's decision to revoke Cosby's degree sends a positive message to survivors.

"They said that part of the reason they were rescinding it was because of the highly credible [testimonies] that these Bill Cosby survivors have been sharing publicly," she said. "That is a really good thing. They are saying that they believe the women, that they don't need a court of law."

According to *The Daily Pennsylvanian*, this is the first time in over 100 years that UPenn revoked an honorary degree. Hopkins has never rescinded one.

Honorary degrees are awarded annually at commencement. According to the University's commencement website, they are meant to "recognize and celebrate extraordinary human achievement in a way that aligns with the aspirations, values, and commitments of Johns Hopkins University."

Nominations for honorary degree candidates are managed by the Board of Trustees, who decide on the recipients with recommendations from University President Ronald J. Daniels, trustees and faculty.

Although Hopkins has historically not taken back honorary degrees, SARU

believes that revoking the degree would be in the University's best interest. Pitkoff was surprised that Hopkins chose not to rescind Cosby's degree given that neighboring schools like Goucher College did.

"There were schools in Maryland, specifically, that had already revoked the degree at the time when we were approaching the administration," she said. "It didn't seem like such a far-off, crazy request."

Over the last two years, SARU said that they have repeatedly approached the University to keep advocating for the repeal of Cosby's degree. Last spring, SARU created the Cosby Taskforce, a group of SARU members who would keep working toward the goal of revoking the degree. Pitkoff said that one of their main initiatives has been reaching out to alumni who can also pressure administrators.

Though SARU has been focused on addressing federal changes in Title IX policy, they plan to continue efforts to revoke the degree. Bernard said that while she still believes revoking the degree would be the right thing, she feels that she has exhausted her resources in plans to get the degree revoked.

"I feel that I have done everything I could to convince JHU to do the right thing, to send the right message to their students," she said. "You can see that they don't care, because they dismissed me."

Though Cosby was charged with three counts of assault, the first trial, which concluded in June 2017, resulted in a hung jury and a retrial was scheduled. Pitkoff said that administrators previously told them that they were awaiting further information.

"We essentially got an answer from the administration saying that they didn't have enough evidence... and they were going to wait to hear the verdict from the court case," Viswanathan said. "That ended in a mistrial."

With a retrial scheduled for April, Pitkoff said that the verdict will inform SARU's future plans and actions.

"A lot of us are optimistic that with the retrial... there's a greater chance that he will be held accountable," Pitkoff said. "We're hoping that with that, it will be a lot easier to get in touch with administrators one last time."

Ultimately, SARU hopes that the University will revoke Cosby's degree in order to stand in solidarity with survivors of sexual assault.

"Revoking this degree would be a show of support from the administration for survivors on campus, that they are believed and that they have a space on this campus to be trusted," Viswanathan said.

University will phase out division of public safety

EDUCATION, FROM A1

their communities. Last year, Baltimore set a record for the number of murders per capita.

Bodenhorn said that closing the program contradicts the mission of the SOE.

"[Hopkins] literally sits in the middle of Baltimore City, a city that has notably one of the worst relationships between public safety and the citizens," Bodenhorn said. "Where are we going to go to get this education? And how are we going to translate it into changes over the next 20 years?"

Major William Alexander, a PSL graduate and officer in Prince George's County, believes that PSL's education approach helps alter that atmosphere.

"This specific program is definitely exposing us and entrenching in us new ideas and thought processes that are helping us realign with what our communities want us to do," Alexander said.

Chief David C. Morris of Riverdale Park Police Department is a graduate of the program and a former president of the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association (MCPA). PSL hosts MCPA at their Columbia Center in Southwest Baltimore.

When Morris became chief of police, he was the only employee in the department with a Master's degree. In recent years he has sent officers to study at PSL during working hours.

"The people [that the PSL is producing] are going to be able to change agencies and shift the culture of police departments and make them more community-focused," Morris said. "We're making tremendous headway. This is not the time to turn back the clock."

Morphew acknowledged a need for higher-quality policing and locally-trained leadership. He also stated that PSL fulfilled an important part of the SOE's mission.

"The decision to close PSL does not mean we are stepping away from this mission," he said. "It means what we are trying to do is find the best way to address the opportunities at hand in public safety leadership."

Despite the successes of the program, enrollment in PSL degree programs fell from 250 in 2009 to 99 this past fall because the program faces growing competition from similar programs at other universities. Morphew said that the size of this decline in enrollment drew his attention because the SOE receives more than half of its revenue through tuition.

However, online enrollment in the division's Master of Science in Organizational Leadership degree has increased in recent years.

Associate Professor Chris Dreisbach, the director of applied ethics and humanities for the PSL, said that the division had also planned to add another online degree program.

"We were about to send a proposal to the Maryland Higher Education Commission to create an online ver-

sion of our Intelligence Analysis Master's," Dreisbach said. "We were feeling very confident about potential enrollment."

According to Dreisbach, the SOE faced fiscal challenges left from the previous dean,

but Dreisbach also stated that PSL itself was doing fine financially.

This is largely due to the non-credit programs that PSL runs. The division had been working with the Department of Homeland Security on a variety of leadership courses and programs.

PSL is also funded through a \$6.5 million grant from the Dept. of Homeland Security. Only \$2.5 million of the grant is left, which is scheduled to run out in September 2019 — three months before the program will close.

Morphew said, however, that fiscal concerns were only part of a larger reason.

"The holistic approach to it, I've made looks at lots of things — enrollment, mission, faculty expertise and certainly financials are a part of that," he said. "If you look at the whole picture, it looks pretty clear to me that we needed to go in a new direction."

Many in the PSL believed that the analysis of the program was not thorough enough. Current students said that they had not been contacted. According to Morphew, SOE does not have many policies in place for reviewing programs.

Theresa Ridgley, a Master's candidate in the program, does not believe that five months was enough time to make an appropriate judgment of the program.

"You couldn't possibly gather all the people, resources and data to make an informed decision in that amount of time," she said.

Morphew, however, said that he spoke with the PSL faculty and staff, as well as other leaders in the SOE and other affiliates of the



FILE PHOTO

The School of Education (SOE) will be phasing out its Division of Public Safety Leadership.

program.

"I've talked with PSL alumni and tried to figure out why the program didn't have the enrollments it had just a few years ago," Morphew said.

According to Dreisbach, Morphew gave no indication that the program would be shut down during the review process.

"I would have appreciated his giving us the premises [for the closure] and asking us to respond to them. He didn't bring us into the deliberation," Dreisbach said.

Dreisbach also said that he was surprised that what alumni told Morphew could have led to the closing of the division. He said that the alumni he has heard from do not agree that the program has lost its identity.

He added that the staff were blindsided by the announcement that the program would end.

According to Morphew, many alumni lauded their experiences in the program. It was common for an alumnus to say the program was very valuable to them, Morphew claimed.

He also said that he regularly meets alumni from the program to hear their thoughts.

"They're looking at the landscape in the nation in 2018 and they're saying, 'Wow what a great opportunity to do something really needed,'" Morphew said. "They're saying we've got to figure out a way to create a program that meets this opportunity head-on. So they look at the enrollments and they wonder what's going on, just like I do."

According to Alexander, the only communication from the SOE to alumni

was Morphew's announcement about the program's closure.

"I am not aware of any other communication from the Dean to PSL alumni or current students, certainly nothing regarding a survey or request for feedback on the program, and its ability to succeed," he wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Morphew also cited a lack of identity and programmatic focus as a reason to close the program. However, Dreisbach said that in adding an online program, they were not simply broadening their identity but also capitalizing on it.

"If you come to a liberal arts school, we can make you a thinking practitioner, a scholar cop," Dreisbach said. "Non-cops became interested in the program, and eventually we had enough interest from the intelligence community that we gave them their own Masters."

Faculty and staff of PSL are unsure of what lies ahead. According to Morphew, the SOE is trying to find opportunities for faculty and staff after the program closes. Dreisbach said that while administrative positions will be safe, the future remains uncertain for faculty positions.

Professor Sheldon Greenberg, the former head of PSL, does not believe that the program's end signifies that the University is faltering in public safety.

"Johns Hopkins University's support for public safety education, training, research, and innovation was underway long before PSL was created and will continue long after it ends," Greenberg wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Purim is Coming!

(Feb 28 evening and March 1)



Four Observances:

מקרא מגילה: Reading the Megillah

משלח מנות: Sending Food Portions One to Another

מתנות לאביונים: Giving Presents to the Poor

סעודת פורים: Festive Meal

Learn important details about its
History, Philosophy & Observance
Purim play: Death of a Mind

Jewish Survival: Torah & Talmud, the Fountain of Infinite Complex Ideas,
Never Ending Learning!

At Our Website: www.torahjewishheritage.com

PAID ADVERTISEMENT



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR

Open House

FEBRUARY 24, 2018

NOON - 4:00PM

*See what our community
has to offer!*

WWW.NINEEAST33RD.COM

**ATTENTION SENIORS:**

ANNOUNCING THE 2018 SUDLER ARTS PRIZE & President's Commendation for Achievement in the Arts

You're good and you know it. PROVE IT.

- **TOOT** your own horn.
- **TELL** your own story.
- **SING** your heart out.
- **DANCE** with joy.
- **ACT** out.

Now is not the time to be modest!

**GO TO getintothearts.jhu.edu/sudlerprize
to find out HOW YOU CAN WIN \$1,500.**

DEADLINE: March 25, 2018

VOICES

Hopkins is a diverse university, where an incredible mix of cultures, academic interests and personalities coexist and thrive...

I might love ice cream just a little too much



Sudgie Ma
BoneAppleTea

The question of what my favorite flavor is ought to excite me because I love ice cream, but instead it frustrates me. Every time I'm asked this question, I need at least a good 10 seconds before answering. It's one of the most seemingly innocent questions you could ask to get to know someone better, but it unleashes a flurry of madness in my mind.

There's just too much to process about the question. The reason why I love ice cream so much is because there are so many delicious offerings out there. How can I mention just one flavor and neglect the rest? It's like having a dozen wonderful children and being asked to pick your favorite. I'll say "chocolate" out loud but then internally cry because I also love coffee, pistachio, matcha, vanilla, coconut and... the list goes on.

I also don't want to be that person who answers with, "Oh, I love all flavors." It annoys me when people do that because it feels like such a cop-out. I mentally accuse them of being lazy and unwilling to put in the effort to make the decision. I'm a cynical person, so while I know they could easily have the same problem, just genuinely loving so many flavors, I rarely give them the benefit of the doubt.

There's also plenty more to struggle with about that question. When picking a flavor to respond with, I also never know whether to answer with a generic "vanilla" or an exact, extremely specific and bougie-sounding "vanilla malt with roasted pistachios and chocolate ganache swirls." Answering straight-up vanilla is always boring, and if I'm being asked the question, I might as well try and show my passion for the dessert being discussed.

However, answering with such a specific flavor can be just as obnoxious as a non-answer because few people will actually be able to relate to you and say, "Hey, I like that flavor too."

But of course, this question isn't the biggest struggle about ice cream. It's the actual accessibility and possession of ice cream that is (well, was) the issue. I was absolutely heartbroken at the beginning of the fall semester when I moved into my double in Charles Commons and found a mini-fridge in the kitchenette. I had been under the impression that all suites would get a full-sized fridge, even if it were a double. The freezers in these minifridges are insanely tiny and unfit to store pints of ice cream,

unless you divided them up into your own Tupperware. If I wanted ice cream, I had to go over to my friend's suite with a full-sized fridge and ask to use it.

Of course, things got difficult fast when I would store ice cream in my friends' fridge. While there are times where I'll binge eat the entire pint, usually I'll save some for later. Inevitably there would be times in the afternoon where I craved ice cream, would go over and knock but nobody would be home to let me in and satisfy my craving.

For this reason, it was actually the greatest blessing ever when my suite's mini-fridge developed issues with temperature control and was replaced after winter break. We got a new sleek, incredibly aesthetic-looking black mini-fridge free of charge.

The reason why I love ice cream so much is because there are so many delicious offerings out there.

Most importantly, the freezer's size is incredible. At the moment, I have seven pints of ice cream stored in it. As unlikely as it seems, the ability to eat ice cream on my own schedule is also somewhat of a curse.

I now consume enough ice cream on a daily basis that my weight has unfortunately been affected. Workouts have become less effective because I'll eat a tub right afterwards. There's a dress that I really want to fit into in time for a date party next week, so this change to my dietary habits has turned from euphoric to as stress-inducing as the question of my favorite flavor. I think at this point, ice cream is causing me more bad than good. I might need a little help.



Lily Kairis
Lil Musings

This Wednesday, as couples celebrate their love and single folks unify in shared independence, another humble holiday transpires below the surface — the beginning of Lent.

As a formerly Catholic child, I can recall the traditions all too well: feasting on Fat Tuesday, attending church (often for the first time in months) on Wednesday to receive a smudge of ash on my forehead and then that afternoon, beginning a long 40 days of sacrifice.

For Christians, Lent marks the 40 days that Jesus spent journeying through the desert before eventually (as the Bible tells it) being crucified on Good Friday and resurrected on Easter Sunday.

In honor of Jesus' struggle, many devout Christians spend Lent repenting for their sins and turning away from material pleasures. Hypothetically, Lent is a time of peaceful religious reflection. But for little, confused Lily, Lent was always a long 40 days of discomfort. Growing up, my family never felt truly religious. My dad comes from a long line of conservative Roman Catholics, and when my mom and dad got married, his parents made them promise to raise their future children in the Catholic faith.

My mom was religiously open minded, so she agreed, but these days, she looks back on this decision with regret. "If you ever get

married, Lily," she tells me, "don't let your in-laws treat you like a doormat."

But despite going through all the Catholic motions — baptisms, Sunday school, First Communion, Confirmation and even a four-year stint as an altar server — I never felt completely at home in the church. I never felt confident in my faith. Part of this, I think, stemmed from a lack of candid conversations.

When I was little, my parents never talked about religion. They were both busy: My dad worked long hours as a corporate lawyer, and my mom was juggling a part-time job, child-care and the early stages of my sister's mental illness.

My silly questions about God were not exactly a top priority. And thus, I kept them to myself. I unleashed them only in private, in the safety of my quiet, moonlit bedroom. There, I was free to doubt.

Nearly every night, I scribbled out my reflections in a floral-print notebook. Along with the classic little-girl preoccupations (my crushes, my dreams, my obsession with *Gilmore Girls*), 10-year-old Lily also scribbled questions: "What does it feel like to die? How can consciousness go on forever? Am I a good person? Will I go to Hell if I've lied or cheated?"

I was a prematurely anxious girl, brimming with existential dread and curiosity. There was so much I yearned to understand. And when my parents, my siblings and the intimidating nuns at church refused to answer my questions, I made up my own solutions.

For a while, I believed that every one of my actions was being tallied and judged. Have you seen *The Good Place*? Basically, 10-year-old me believed this was reality: Everything you do has a net value, pos-



PUBLIC DOMAIN

The 40-period of Lent began for Christians this week on Ash Wednesday.

itive or negative, and gets ranked into your total value as a person.

Every time I lied to my parents about brushing my teeth, I felt a palpable knotting in my stomach. A hissing voice condemned me: "You've been bad." And then, according to the strange rules of my universe, after every mistake I made, the world would give me my comeuppance.

This also worked in reverse: If a boy at school called me ugly, or I fell down the stairs, or my sister threw a violent tantrum — I thought to myself, "This must be some sort of punishment." I must be doing something wrong. I would wrack my brain constantly, brainstorming mistakes, tallying up the ways in which I wasn't measuring up.

As you might imagine, this was exhausting. My childhood was full of positive memories, for sure, but if there's one thing I look back on with regret, it is my relationship to religion. I write this with some hesitation, because I know there are countless people who feel nurtured and supported by their spiritual communities. To them, I have nothing but respect. Honestly, sometimes, I envy them. For me, though, Christianity was never a source of solace; it was a source of anxiety.

Around this time of year, all these memories

rush back to the surface. Lent was always the worst for me (a classic scenario: 10-year-old Lily pledges to give up sweets. On day 30, she eats a single Oreo. She subsequently plunges into deep, catastrophic self-hatred for her sinful mistake).

Luckily, in the decade that has passed since my Catholic upbringing, I have grown tremendously. When I was 17, I started asking my parents about religion, and to my great surprise, they answered me. We started addressing my biggest fears in a way that finally felt genuine.

I confided in friends; I read books of philosophy and religious theory; I listened to TED Talks about self-love; I wrote stories; I went to therapy. Somewhere along the way, I learned a lesson I still carry with me (and even still struggle with today): Forgive yourself.

It sounds so simple, but to me, this was groundbreaking. I spent so many years feeling like I was born sinful, and thus I needed to work tremendously to mold myself into someone who would be worthy of goodness. In essence, I spent years hating myself.

While I believe that — yes, correcting past mistakes is necessary, and ethical development is admirable — it is just as necessary to accept yourself, exactly as you are.

Math, Nutella and writing: what they all have in common



Willa Grinsfelder
An Engineer's Window

Math is like the jar of Nutella sitting on my desk while writing is like the jar of chocolate hazelnut spread on my roommate's desk.

Objectively they're the same: a delicious chocolatey spread that you can put on toast or pancakes when having a late breakfast. Yet people have unwarranted, conflicting opinions about both. Some hate math while they swear by writing, and others hate writing while they swear by math.

I'm tired of the differentiation between the two and want to point out that they're incredibly similar approaches to the world. Squint your eyes just a tiny bit, and the Nutella and chocolate hazelnut

spread are the same thing.

From primary education onwards, math is taught in a rigid, logical method. Two plus two is four because that's what the teacher says. Danny only has three pennies because four of his seven pennies were taken away.

"Why?" is a pointless question until you get to high school, where calculus and graphs come along. Coincidentally, writing is also taught by focusing on method and structure. Students fill out grammar books (which I don't even remember doing now) and memorize big words for spelling tests.

There is no difference between the two until higher education, where people begin to assume that in order to write you have to be creative while in order to do math you have to be logical.

I think that such a distinction should be thrown in the trash and burned. Writing takes logic just as much as math takes creativity. Both are abstractions of the world we live in, made in an attempt to better understand events occurring around us.

The abstractions can lead to hilarious absurdity, or deep understanding. Take the perfectly rational economic man, for example.

The perfectly rational economic man is everyone's worst nightmare, but also a hilarious concept to think about. They're the person who asks how much you love them and puts it in a spreadsheet to determine who their best friend is.

When they're in a relationship, they have their partner fill out a survey stating their life goals and dreams to see if they'll be compatible.

If there aren't quite enough points for a match, they dump their partner and move on. Even Odo from *Star Trek: The Next Generation* is more human than this rational person.

It takes a certain application of mathematics to create the perfectly rational economic man, but his absurdity is revealed by putting him in the context of actual humans. He is a classic example of when math has gone too far, leaving writing and our ideas of a person behind.

In the same way, stories that abandon math are sim-

ilarly absurd. Think back on all of the science fiction you've ever read. Yes, maybe little Jimmy could fly in a spaceship at the speed of light and shoot lasers out of his eyes, but at a certain point it gets to be so unbelievable it's absurd.

It's only when the two fields come together in works like *2001: A Space Odyssey* that we gain a more profound understanding of our own existence through the simplification of the world through mathematics and writing.

Those are the stories that

get me excited. When people write with mathematical accuracy about human events, I'm interested and surprised.

More often than not, math gets left in the dust (in the same way that writing gets left in the dust by mathematicians) and the result is dissatisfying. The distinction between the two is arbitrary and meaningless, and it's time to do away with it — to embrace math in writing and writing in math!

Stop drawing boundaries and just let the Nutella be delicious.



JANINE / CC BY 2.0

Grinsfelder believes writing, math, and Nutella are somewhat similar.

VOICES

Here is the section where you can publish your unique thoughts, ideas and perspectives on life at Hopkins and beyond.

Why I might not text you back right away



Rudy Malcom
Rudyard's Klippings

This article had the potential to be the most stereotypically millennial thing I've ever written, aside from a caption I came close to posting on my finsta at 2 a.m. last week, in which I called the latest Snapchat update a sensory overload and a grossly inefficient redesign. (Seriously, kids, don't download it.)

Although I was admittedly sleep-deprived and enraged when I wrote it, for me to compare the new version of a mobile app to a crime against humanity, as I did, was inexcusable. Needless to say, not being able to easily view a half-acquaintance's Snapchat story pales Snapchat-ghost-white in comparison with genocide, and if you think otherwise, you might actually be the phone-addicted crybaby that older generations make us millennials out to be.

However, that being said, technology has generated some real issues, and we millennials are not being snowflakes when we react to them.

Technology has allowed interpersonal communication to be readily available at our thumbprints. Not only can the App Store ruin something perfectly good that really didn't need fixing by automatically updating our social media (it's fine, I'm fine, truly), but our friends can update us with screenshots of messages from Tinder matches, with links to songs, with YouTube videos we must check out or with memes that are painfully relatable.

More significantly, our friends can also update us with their problems. Hyperconnectivity has transformed us into impromptu pseudo-therapists, whose patients can drop in 24/7. Like it or not, simply by glancing at our notifications, we often assume the responsibility of offering comfort and advice — not necessarily with the qualifications to do so.

I should mention that Hopkins offers resources, such as A Place to Talk (APIT) and the Counseling Center. We can go to APIT and receive listening sessions from peer listeners trained in empathetic and active listening skills and crisis intervention, with whom we can discuss anything, from mundane frustrations to serious concerns.

We can address our mental health needs and receive emotional support, assistance and professional help from psychotherapists at the Counseling Center.

Regardless, without training, we are still frequently pseudo-therapists. This is, of course, definitely not always a bad thing. The phenomenon is, to a large degree, a component of healthy interpersonal relationships. Within seconds we can flip

the metaphorical office: The pseudo-therapist becomes the patient, the patient the pseudo-therapist.

Yet we cannot be engaged virtual listeners or committed advisors all the time. As Hopkins students and as human beings in general (the two categories don't have to be mutually exclusive, except in the case of some snakey pre-meds), there exist numerous demands on our time, cognitive abilities and emotions. Frankly, we have our own shit with which we must deal.

"Selfishness is putting your wants over the needs of others, while self-respect is putting your needs over the wants of others," Courtney Brand writes on her lifestyle blog *The B Werd*. But how do we define putting our needs over the needs of others?

I cannot and will not answer that question. But very simply, although we are fundamentally perhaps always our own top priorities, being interdependent social creatures entails that we must self-sacrifice for the sake of others. And yes, one can argue that technological advances distance us from real-life interaction, but undeniable and unprecedented connection with one another through our phones has amplified this need.

We are empathic. I'm not going to get into whether or how much this ability is taught or innate, but I don't think we should feel socially obligated to concern ourselves with other people's shit. We shouldn't be able to not care. And although someone's self-worth or emotional stability shouldn't hinge upon the quality of another person's response, it can feel like you're being trivialized when you get a half-assed text back.

For whatever reason, unread notifications cause me undue stress — particularly text messages and snaps. As a result, I've gained, for better or worse, a reputation from my high school and college peers alike for being an almost instantaneous responder. (If I open a message, I'll forget to respond.)

Someone once told me that I "display excellent texting etiquette." I do always want to be there for my friends, but I would suffer emotionally and academically if this were the case.

Consequently, when I must do work, I sometimes leave my phone in my room and head to Brody. Yes, we already know that D-level inherently does this, but in any of Brody's cubicles, without my phone I can unplug from society. I can focus only on my shit — this article, for instance. I can leave some of my other shit behind in my room, too.

Then, when I come back, I can offer a wholly justified explanation for my absence and answer, not half-assedly, but instead — pardon my millennial neologism — thicc-assedly.

So, please know that if it seemingly randomly takes five hours for me to respond to your snap: No, I did not vanish into the ether. I just care about you.

Going from a sexual assault victim to a survivor

Zubia Hasan
Guest Columnist

There was this girl once who had been sexually assaulted by someone she knew. This girl hid from it for a very long time. She pushed it down, down, down so that it did not exist and the memory was just a dream. She forgot though, that reality has a way of making itself apparent to her.

And so one day it all came back to her and she remembered. She remembered every agonizing detail, and she could no longer push it down, down, down. She could no longer pretend this big black memory did not exist in the outskirts of her mind, sneaking up on her when she least expected it: at night in her dreams; in the morning during class; in the space between afternoon and evening when the swathes of time twisted into morphed dreams of what had happened, could happen, would happen.

But this was manageable. Memories were just that, and thoughts just there. What was not manageable, however, was the aftermath: how she would see her actions being guided by an invisible hand of oppression and fear. Everything she did, it seemed, was somehow linked to that one event — that one memory. Nothing made sense to her, because she thought memories were just that and thoughts just there. But was her personality being determined by these memories and thoughts? Was she her assault? Was that her identity for the rest

of her life — someone who had been assaulted? Was she that and nothing else?

Well, she didn't want any of it.

And so this girl fought with every ounce of strength she had. She refused to let this story become her story. She refused to tell anyone — words can't be taken back you see — they hang in the air and they cling to you, printed on your skin as your story, and this wasn't her story. It couldn't be. And so this girl tried to escape, but there was nowhere to run — she forgot she couldn't run from what was inside, and her inside was eating her until she felt twisted and chewed up and not there.

She couldn't run from it anymore. She couldn't run from it when it affected every sphere of her life. She couldn't run from it when it affected her relationships, her friendships, her interactions. She couldn't run from it when it manifested itself in her highs and her lows. She couldn't run from it when it sneaked up on her in the form of voices in her head, "Worthless. Dirty. Unlovable."

She couldn't run from it anymore when she was so tired of running all the time.

And so one day she stopped and let the thoughts consume her.

"... your fault"

"... you deserved it"

"Others have it so much worse"

"... that's why he left you"

"... damaged. Broken Weak. FILTHY. FILTHY. FILTHY."

Wave after wave of thoughts and voices consumed her mind, resonating in her brain, echoing people whose strange faces she did not recognize and mimicking the faces of those she did. Instead of kind words though, their faces twisted into cruel aberrations, accusing her of lying, of being weak, of making it up.

This girl was trapped in her own mind, and she could not escape. Suddenly she started to see connections that did not exist. If she had not been assaulted, this wouldn't have happened, that wouldn't have happened, she would have been happier and better, she would not be her. Round and round and round her thoughts whirled, swishing around in a pool of grey and red. She tried to grasp something, anything that wasn't in such a state of flux, but she did not succeed. Everything was changing and moving and she couldn't make sense of anything.

That, you see, was the problem.

The confusion. The murky depths of brown water that washed over her mind as she struggled to piece it all together. She just didn't understand. She didn't understand why it had happened to her. She didn't understand why she had to live with something that was not her fault. She did not understand how someone she loved and

trusted could betray her so easily. She just didn't understand how someone could take away something that was hers so easily without stopping to ask nicely, kindly or even rudely — or even cruelly. She wanted a reason, an explanation for why he did what he did. She wanted to go up to him, look him in the eyes and ask him, "Why? Why? WHY?"

She could not understand how unfair it was. Unfairness, you see, was not symmetrical. It was without reason and it was arbitrary. It was dished out at random, and there was no explanation for who it chose to hit. There was no logic in its asymmetry. There was no rhyme and no pattern, and this drove the girl crazy. She saw in the unfairness, a map of the world and how it would turn out for the rest of her life. For the first time in her life, she was scared, because she saw a question that could not be answered.

She saw in his betrayal a reflection of humans. Others would soon follow suit. And so she planned her life accordingly, waiting for others to break her trust. Some did, some didn't, and she is still waiting. She does not have answers. Maybe she will never get them.

This girl does not claim to have gotten any closer to a sort of acceptance you see in books. She still struggles to contain her thoughts and she still spirals into a murky unbreakable zone of grey wounds. But she just thought that perhaps for once, just for once, she could tell her story — because for better or for worse, it was her story after all.

She remembered every agonizing detail, and she could no longer push it down, down, down.

A look at the teen love story of Catwoman and Batman



Catherine Palmer
Catwoman

In honor of Valentine's Day, I have decided to finally write about my namesake, Catwoman, (aka Selina Kyle) and her famously tumultuous relationship with Batman (aka Bruce Wayne) as portrayed on Fox's *Gotham*.

As a prequel to the traditional *Dark Knight* saga, the show has the characters meet as teens prior to assuming their alter egos, unlike in the comics. This week, I will explore their relationship in seasons one and two. (WARNING: Spoilers)

Wayne Manor for protection, and Bruce is instantly rather enamored of her. She appears to represent everything he wishes he could be: cool, free and fearless. Selina is amused by his crush and yet, despite herself, develops one of her own.

When assassins come to the Manor, Selina realizes they are after her, but not wanting Bruce to abandon her, she claims that he is the target and promises to protect him as they flee to downtown Gotham.

Her care for him propels her to come clean, though, despite it not being in her best interest. She tells him to return home, but to her surprise, he refuses to leave her side until the threat passes. Later that night, Selina kisses Bruce goodbye and returns to living on her own.

Bruce soon begins to miss her and asks her to return to the Manor on the condition that she would help him search for his parents' killer. Guilt-ridden and overwhelmed by being missed by someone for the first time, Selina admits that she lied about seeing the killer's face and runs away before Bruce can reply.

To Bruce's credit, he doesn't hold a grudge, and the two reconnect when his life is put in danger by an old friend of his butler Alfred (Sean Pertwee). Selina forces the man to admit that he is part of a larger conspiracy and, realizing

he will tip off his partners, reluctantly pushes the man out of a window in order to protect Bruce.

Bruce is horrified and angered by her extreme measures, while Selina is frustrated that he isn't grateful. Nonetheless, she continues to help Bruce get to the bottom of the mystery.

adorably flustered.

Bruce and Selina later become roommates for a few months when Bruce realizes he could stand to be a bit more street smart. The pair lovingly take care of each other and, for the first time since her mother left, Selina feels like she has a person, in the *Grey's Anatomy* sense.

Bruce devastates her when he abruptly announces that he's learned all he needed to and is returning home. Not wanting to show weakness, Selina doesn't admit how much it hurts her; and Bruce is oblivious, having always believed that she liked being on her own.

They end the season on good terms after reuniting to save an old friend of Selina's from Arkham Asylum. However, they never talk about what happened, foreshadowing a pattern of poor communication in seasons three and four that I'll discuss in my next column.



GAGE SKIDMORE/CC BY-SA 3.0
Camren Bicondova plays Selina Kyle, or Catwoman, on Fox's *Gotham*.

the johns hopkins

NEWS-LETTER

Editorials

The University needs to *fully* divest from fossil fuels

For the past six years, the student group, Refuel our Future (Refuel), has been calling for our Board of Trustees to divest its endowment from fossil fuels as a way to show the University’s commitment to an environmentally sustainable future. Last December, the Board announced that they will divest the endowment from thermal coal. This is a step in the right direction but falls short of what we and many others called for.

The process for divestment began with a student proposal to the Public Interest Investment Advisory Committee (PIIAC), a group comprised of faculty, students and staff, whose mission is to evaluate and recommend divestment decisions to the Board of Trustees. Last September, PIIAC released a series of recommendations unequivocally calling for divesting from Carbon Underground 200 Companies, which are considered leaders in the fossil fuel industry.

In its report, PIIAC argued that the University has a moral responsibility to divest, especially considering

the incoming catastrophic effects of climate change. They pointed out how fossil fuel divestment aligned with the values of our community and complemented other sustainability campaigns on campus.

Last semester, during finals period, the Board of Trustees released a decision ignoring the majority of PIIAC’s recommendations and instead opted to only divest from thermal coal companies. They cited that further divestment would compromise the Board’s “fiduciary duty” to manage its financial assets even though PIIAC argued that divestment “can be managed such that the University’s mission would not be harmed.”

The Board of Trustees made this decision behind closed doors. We do not know how individual Trustees voted. We are curious about what other sources of information they consulted that led them to their decision.

The University announced the Board’s decision with much undeserved fanfare. In a masterful move of manipulating public perception, our school

sent out press releases touting its commitment to combatting the negative health and environmental impacts of thermal coal. While we certainly agree that burning thermal coal is detrimental to the environment and public health, this is only one fossil fuel among many.

Furthermore, because this decision came in the midst of finals period, students like those in Refuel did not have time to respond.

With categorical evidence that sea levels are rising and that the average global temperature is increasing, we need to show strong commitments to combatting climate change, especially given our current presidential administration’s refusal to take climate change seriously.

The fight for fossil fuel divestment at this University is far from over. We encourage students to stay involved with Refuel Our Future and continue pushing the University towards total divestment. We cannot grow complacent. It’s time for Hopkins to divest the rest.

A monument to Harriet Tubman is what Baltimore needs

Last August, Baltimore City Mayor Catherine Pugh announced her decision to remove the Lee-Jackson monument in the Wyman Park Dell. The monument, built in 1948 — 83 years after the Civil War — celebrated Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson, who both fought on the Confederate side of the Civil War.

Pugh made this decision following the disturbing white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va. which also served as a protest to keep Charlottesville’s Confederate monuments.

In a decisive move, Pugh hired a contractor to remove all four of Baltimore’s Confederate monuments, making a statement that our City will not tolerate representations of white supremacy. These pedestals have stood emp-

ty for six months.

Earlier this month, the City Council gave preliminary approval to rededicate the Lee-Jackson monument as a tribute to Harriet Tubman, an abolitionist who worked as a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad. Tubman was born into slavery in Maryland, but she escaped and risked her life to lead her family and over 300 other slaves to freedom.

Over these past six months, community members have been weighing in on what should take the monument’s place. Some suggestions from the public included leaving the pedestal empty or creating a memorial to honor the rich yet complicated history of abolitionism in the United States.

We believe that the choice of rededicating the

space to Harriet Tubman, a black woman who sacrificed so much for the freedom of others, is the right decision.

Almost all Confederate monuments were built after the Civil War as a way to recall the racist and shameful institution of slavery in our country’s history.

The City currently plans on holding a rededication ceremony on March 10. While we do not know what form the new monument will take, we commend the City for taking this important step.

The pedestal has sat empty for too long, and with the candidate for rededication finalized, it is now time to plan for a new memorial. We look forward to having a symbol in our neighborhood which we can all take pride in.

LETTERS & OP-ED POLICY

The News-Letter encourages letters to the editor and op-eds. *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter* reserves the sole right to edit all op-ed pieces and/or letters to the editor for space, grammar, clarity, accuracy and style. This applies to the body of the submission as well as its headline. Upon submission, all op-eds and letters to the editor become property of *The News-Letter*. *The News-Letter* reserves the right to not publish any op-ed or letter to the editor for any reason, at the sole discretion of the Editors-in-Chief. Letters to the editor are limited to 400 words, must address content previously published in *The News-Letter*, and must include the author’s name. Letters must be received by 5 p.m. Monday for inclusion in that week’s issue; they should be sent to chiefs@jhunewsletter.com (with “Letter to the editor” in the subject line) or the mailing address below. To write an op-ed, contact opinions@jhunewsletter.com. Op-eds are not limited in their length except as available space may dictate. All submissions may be published online as well as in the paper, and no anonymous submissions will be accepted.

Submittal of an op-ed and/or letter to the editor acknowledges your acceptance of and agreement to these policies. Any questions about these policies should be directed to the Editors-in-Chief of *The News-Letter* at chiefs@jhunewsletter.com.

the johns hopkins

NEWS-LETTER

WWW.JHUNEWLETTER.COM

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF:
Sam Fossum & Rollin Hu

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICERS
MANAGING EDITORS:
Kelsey Ko & Catherine Palmer

EDITORS

NEWS & FEATURES EDITORS

Sarah Y. Kim, Morgan Ome
Jacob Took, Alyssa Wooden
Jacqui Neber
Emilie Hoffer, Esther Hong,
Greg Melick
Sabrina Chen, Elaine Chiao
Will Kirsch, Katherine Logan
Meagan Peoples
Renee Scavone
Ellie Hallenborg, Cindy Jiang,
Lauren Questell
Diva Parekh, Katie Tam
Giselle Ruiz
Jeanne Lee
Gillian Lelchuk

OPINIONS EDITOR
SPORTS EDITORS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EDITORS
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITORS
VOICES EDITOR
YOUR WEEKEND EDITOR
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS

COPY EDITORS
CARTOONS EDITOR
LAYOUT EDITOR
MAGAZINE EDITOR

BUSINESS STAFF

CHIEF BUSINESS OFFICER

Sandra Weiss

TECHNOLOGY STAFF

WEBMASTER
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Elaine Wong
Sam Farrar

SENIOR STAFF WRITERS: Valerie Chavez, Anne Hollmuller, Claire Fox, Peter Ji, Sara Schreib, Siri Tummala

STAFF WRITERS: Jaemie Bennett, Allison Chen, Anna Chen, David Glass, Anna Gordon, Rachel Huang, Amelia Isaacs, Cindy Jiang, Lily Kairis, Jessica Kasamoto, Rudy Malcom, Bessie Liu, Tiancheng Lyu, Teresa Ng, Jonathan Patterson, Jamie Scharf, Nikita Shtarkman, Sam Mollin, Ariella Shua, Sherry Simkovic, Karen Wang, Katy Wilner, Brandon Wolfe, Tanya Wongvibulsin

STAFF PHOTOGRAPHERS: Kunal Maiti

COPY STAFF: Brian Covington, Rudy Malcom, Sara Di Muzio, Carmen Schafer, Ariella Shua

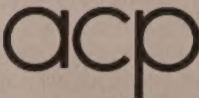
The News-Letter
The Gatehouse
(on the corner of N. Charles Street and
Art Museum Drive)

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter is published every Thursday during the academic year by the undergraduate students of The Johns Hopkins University with the exception of holidays, exam periods and vacations. The views expressed herein, including opinions and columns, do not necessarily represent those of the editorial board. All submissions become property of *The News-Letter* and will be included on *The News-Letter’s* website, www.jhunewsletter.com.

Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 1-5 p.m. The deadline for advertisements is 5 p.m. on the Monday before the Thursday of publication. The total circulation to the local campuses of Johns Hopkins (Homewood, Medical School and Hospital, Peabody), area colleges and the greater Baltimore region is 3,000.

©2017 *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter*. No material in this issue may be reproduced without the expressed written permission of the Editors-in-Chief.

Mailing Address:
3400 N. Charles St.
Matten Center, Suite 131
Baltimore, MD 21218
Phone: (410) 516-6000
Email: chiefs@jhunewsletter.com
Business Email: business@jhunewsletter.com



OPINIONS

With the exception of editorials, the opinions expressed here are those of the contributors. They are not necessarily those of The Johns Hopkins News-Letter.

We need to be mindful about our plastic use



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Ko argues that we can reduce plastic use through smart shopping decisions.

By KELSEY KO

Every year, one million toothbrushes (roughly 50 million pounds) are thrown out and added to landfills every year. That's enough plastic to stretch around the world four times. The average American woman menstruates for 38 years and uses disposable feminine hygiene products. That's roughly 250-300 pounds of garbage during your lifetime, just from your period.

Why is the amount of garbage we produce a big deal? Both toothbrushes and feminine hygiene products contain plastic, which can take up to a thousand years to decompose. Imagine those million plastic toothbrushes, just sitting in a landfill for hundreds of years. The solution is simple: Buy biodegradable bamboo toothbrushes.

It's difficult to make smart, sustainable shopping choices because we do not fully understand how much the way we spend our money impacts the world that we live in. You wander through CVS and reach for the same plastic Oral-B toothbrushes that your parents have been buying since you were a kid. You buy either Kotex or Tampax when it comes to feminine hygiene products, because that's just what has always worked for you. You grow complacent because it's easier to not think about those everyday purchases.

After stumbling across the blogs by people who live zero-waste lifestyles (a life of no plastic is hard but possible) and having several conversations with environmentally conscious friends, I've realized that if there's anything immediate that people can do to make a difference, it's making simple choices with greater thought. I've personally been trying to make more environmentally conscious choices by changing how I shop for my bathroom, and you should too.

You might think: Why use less plastic when you can just recycle? Recycling is important, but the fact of the matter is that the Earth does not need more plastic in circulation. Chances are, every plastic bottle you've used exists somewhere on the Earth — whether it's been sold to China or melted and reused. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), we threw out around 33 million pounds of plastic in 2014, and only around 10 percent of that was recycled. Why use plastic when you can

just create less waste?

I've already mentioned bamboo toothbrushes that you can compost. But there are also other ways you can make your hygiene habits more sustainable, like using bar soap instead of buying big plastic bottles of body wash. I use a shampoo and conditioner from a company called Plaine Products, which sends you the product in refillable metal bottles. When you're finished, you send them back to be reused.

Reducing your environmental footprint doesn't have to be expensive either. Any girl who uses the reusable menstrual cup (me included!) will rave about how it's more comfortable, more environmentally sound and saves you the thousands of dollars that you would otherwise have spent over a lifetime. Yes, thousands. They call it the 'pink tax' for a reason.

I personally think the bathroom is the easiest place to start when it comes to waste reduction. The kitchen definitely requires more thought: When you go shopping for food, everything you buy comes packaged in plastic. For me, the next step is buying more from farmers' markets, shopping in bulk and taking my own glass containers when I shop.

The American dream is one that feeds directly into consumerism and thoughtless buying. When you have money, you spend it. Even though tap water has to meet rigorous standards that are set by the EPA, America is obsessed with bottled water. And companies like Coca Cola or Pepsi know they can profit off of this by creating products like Dasani, Smart Water or Aquafina.

The good news is that you vote with your dollar. Every time you say no to bottled water and yes to that refillable bottle, you stand up for a more environmentally just planet. Every time you say no to plastic toothbrushes and yes to bamboo toothbrushes, you support the beautiful cycle of compost, where waste returns back to the earth and the dirt grows new life.

Especially with our current presidential administration, our environment is threatened more than ever. If we all make small changes in the way we shop, we can support a cleaner, greener earth for generations to come.

Kelsey Ko is a junior International Studies and East Asian Studies major from Bethlehem, Pa. She is the Managing Editor.

Studying abroad is great, but not essential

By JACQUI NEBER

I didn't study abroad during my time at Hopkins. I stayed on campus for all four years and got to live vicariously through my friends posting on Instagram from cities across the globe: London, Buenos Aires, Rome, Sydney, Paris, Amsterdam, Hong Kong, the list goes on. Sometimes I wished I was with them. But at the end of it all, as a second-semester senior, I'm glad I've spent four whole years at Hopkins.

I had many reasons for not going abroad. A disastrous freshman spring had left no room in my GPA for grades that wouldn't transfer back to Hopkins. I had just been elected as Managing Editor of this very newspaper, a year-round position that was contingent on my not leaving for a semester. Above all, I loved my routine at school, and I didn't want to leave.

Studying abroad is hyped up at any college as a life-changing experience, but staying at school for all four years can be similarly and positively life-altering. I've had the best (so far!) years of my life at this school, even in this environment, without leaving the country for a semester.

For clarification: I love the idea of studying abroad. I spent most of my high school life planning on studying in another country in college, dreaming of side trips to other places, imagining the friends I'd make while going through the study abroad experience. Sometimes I look back and still can't believe I didn't do it. However, I know I'll be able to travel in life without having spent a semester abroad. Traveling is a top priority of mine, one I know I'll make happen at another point in time. I've also been lucky enough already to go to a few different countries on high school trips and with my family. These trips have allowed me to understand how amazing a semester abroad could be, and even added to my heartache when I hear about my peers' experiences.

However, staying at Hopkins for all four years allowed me to build connections with my friends that remained uninterrupted by leaving. I couldn't have made it through Hopkins without my people, and I'm grateful for every minute spent with them. Four full years isn't enough, but it's a start.

Staying at Hopkins has also allowed me to stick with *The News-Letter* for four years in four different capacities. This newspaper has become my home and its editors my family, and going away would have put a semester-long halt to hanging out in the Gatehouse every Wednesday night. I'm glad I didn't lose time in this space. It's become vital to my career path and my happiness.

Most importantly, depending on how you look at it, I spent each semester after freshman spring achieving semesterly GPAs that contribute to my over-

all grade point average in a positive way. If I had gone abroad, it's possible that my grades at a different school wouldn't have transferred into my GPA here. I decided I couldn't afford that after that crazy spring when I was 19. Staying at Hopkins for all four years was a way more practical decision than I'm known for making. It all worked out.

Hindsight is 20/20. I had a lot of anxiety about not going abroad in the moment — would I be missing out on traveling experiences? Making new friends? Oktoberfest?

It wasn't necessarily an easy decision to avoid studying abroad. If you're thinking about going abroad, you might feel some of the same pressure to go and have a life-changing experience of your own. Even now, I feel a little sadness every time one of my friends who spent a semester traveling raves about their time in other countries.

It's difficult not to feel like I missed out on potential friendships, cities and landscapes I'll never forget, during those four months that were somehow worse



COURTESY OF JACQUI NEBER

Jacqui did travel to Italy, but the trip involved more cooking than studying.

because I spent them at Hopkins.

The most important thing to realize is that staying here or studying abroad is a very personal choice. You need to weigh the pros and cons of each option for yourself: against your social situation, how you feel about your grades, how you feel about Hopkins. Staying here for all four years isn't right for everyone, but I promise, you won't miss out on (too) much if you don't study abroad.

Not going abroad allowed me to have what I

define as the quintessential college experience: one that I have loved and couldn't imagine not experiencing. But going abroad might be the thing that lets you have your version of the same good story. The bottom line is, no matter what you decide, know that you're making the right choice for yourself.

It's okay to study abroad, and it's okay not to. Do whichever is right for you.

Jacqui Neber is a senior Writing Seminars major from Northport, N.Y. She is the Opinions Editor.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

DISCOVER A
GENEROUS
SCHOLARSHIP
PROGRAM.

The U.S. Army's Health Professions Scholarship Program (HPSP) offers qualified medical, dental and veterinary students full tuition for a graduate-level degree at the school of your choice. You'll receive a monthly stipend and payment for books, equipment and academic fees, as well as the potential to grow as a leader.

To learn more, visit
healthcare.gooarmy.com/kd94

© 2014. Paid for by the United States Army. All rights reserved.

Rogers House 2018

"Healthy Living & Sustainability"

Residential Life offers Rogers House as a unique residential community experience where a "Healthy Living & Sustainability" framework is provided.

Rogers House focuses on residents and programming that prioritizes balanced living, exercise & nutrition, rest & relaxation, sustainability, and substance-free living.

For more information contact the Wolman Housing Office
Tel: 410-516-7960
Email: confirmation@jhu.edu



Important Dates:

Monday, February 19th | 12:00pm - 2:00pm
Housing Information Booth at Fresh Food Cafe

Wednesday, February 21st | 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Open House @ Rogers House, 3506 Greenway

Thursday, February 22nd @ 10:00am - Tuesday, February 27th @ 11:59pm
Application Available On-Line at <https://jhu.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>
Deadline: Tuesday, February 27th @ 11:59pm

Thursday, March 1st @ 5:00pm
Rogers House Time Slot Notification distributed via email

Friday, March 2nd
Rogers House Online Room Selection Process
Choosing time based on Time Slot Notification

Deadline to apply: Tuesday, February 27th @ 11:59pm
For more info visit: <https://jhu.starrezhousing.com/StarRezPortal>

THE B SECTION

YOUR WEEKEND • ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT • CARTOONS, ETC. • SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY • SPORTS

FEBRUARY 15, 2018



Arts & Entertainment

Barnstormers' *Stupid Fucking Bird* captures tragedy & comedy — B3
 Single Carrot Theatre's *The Death of Walt Disney* surprises — B4
 Mark Bramble speaks on Hamilton at Homewood Museum — B5



Science & Technology

Hopkins to build new UAE-funded institute for stroke research — B7
 Researchers create implant that enhances memory — B8
History of Science: Fetal alcohol spectrum disorders — B9



Sports

Wrestling comes in fifth at Conference Championships — B9
 M. and W. Lacrosse launch seasons with strong victories — B10
 M. Basketball defeats Swarthmore in double overtime — B12

YOUR WEEKEND FEBRUARY 15 – 18

Events in Baltimore this weekend

Thursday

Love Hangover
One World Cafe
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Valentine's Day a bust? Shake it off with this fun, disco-themed evening. Jailbreak Brewing and Troegs Independent Brewing will be taking over the taps for the night, and there'll even be some free stuff. No cover.

Friday

Red Velvet by Lolita Chakrabarti
Chesapeake Shakespeare Company
8 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Playwright Lolita Chakrabarti tells the story of the 1833 London production of *Othello*, where for the first time the role of the titular Venetian general was played by a person of color: African American Ira Aldridge. Tickets start at \$16.

But I'm a Cheerleader
Blue Pit BBQ & Whiskey Bar
10 p.m. – 1:30 a.m.

Join the folks at Blue Pit for this classic film, which puts a darkly humorous spin on gay conversion camps in the '90s. A portion of the night's sales will be donated to Youth Empowered Society, an organization that provides support to homeless LGBTQ youth. Come by before 10 for special deals at the restaurant. No cover.

Saturday

Bottom Up Bagels in the Taproom
Charm City Meadworks
2:30 p.m. – 5 p.m.

The first of two weekends where you can grab a bagel or two (or three, or four...) at Charm City Meadworks. Pair your gluten with some mead, or try some local honey.

Theta Flux, Snack Master and the Holographic Sticker Club
The Holy Underground
10 p.m. – 1 a.m.

Three local groups share the stage for a night of electronic music. DJ Chris Balint to perform in between acts. \$5.

Sunday

Lunar New Year Celebration
The Walters Art Museum
11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Come celebrate the Year of the Dog with a scavenger hunt, performances and more. You can also check out a special dogs in art exhibit. Free.

RyeZenDine offers alternative to local breakfasts

By RENEE SCAVONE
Your Weekend Editor

At the risk of sounding too much like a knock off Ron Swanson, I am sincerely shocked that there are people out there who wouldn't rather be eating breakfast foods.

Indeed, in my opinion a city is only as good as its breakfast options, and we are lucky to live in a place with a plethora of them.

While everyone knows Miss Shirley's and we've all had a hangover bagel or two at THB, when I'm having a Rough Morning I like to take the JHMI down to Mount Vernon for breakfast at RyeZenDine.

I discovered the restaurant pretty much by accident a couple summers ago when I was looking for somewhere air conditioned to wait for the Charm City Circulator.

More than just some place that was below 100 percent humidity, RyeZenDine quickly became one of my favorite spots to grab an omelette.

The restaurant is unassuming, about a dozen tables and a bar area. It's not huge, but it's definitely bigger than most of the food places on St. Paul.

Weather permitting, there are cute little outdoor tables if you wish to dine outside. Enjoy watching the city wake up as you bite into the best french toast ever made (sorry, Dad).

The space is brightly lit by big windows, and it

faces east as to get that perfect morning sunlight.

RyeZenDine also has pretty cool wall art; the kind of stuff that looks a little modern, but isn't so obviously picked out from some catalog of "groovy looking pieces that Mount Vernon artist-types might like."

The set up seems pretty intentional, like someone actually sat down and chose their favorite pieces. Furthermore, a lot of the art is for sale, just in case something catches your eye.

There are also cool looking bar stools, which are always a plus.

Perhaps the most notable aesthetic of the restaurant is its signature red mugs, each bearing a silhouette of a person wearing a hat.

The design is technically the logo of coffee supplier Julius Meinl, but I've come to think of it only as the unofficial emblem of early morning cinnamon rolls.

Of course beyond its cutesy look and wonderful service, RyeZenDine also offers some pretty damn good food.

This is not in any way an exaggeration. I would



COURTESY OF RENEE SCAVONE

RyeZenDine's well-lit interior makes it the perfect spot for your breakfast Instagram shots.

do some things I'm not proud of for their Berry Berry Good Cakes, which have mascarpone cheese, fresh berries and Nutella.

When I gave up sugary breakfast foods for Lent one year, I literally had fever dreams about these pancakes.

They also have a good selection of breakfast sandwiches designed to be eaten while on the go, which is perfect for when you're "too busy" to otherwise justify going across town for a breakfast joint.

And don't even get me started on their coffee (or their \$5 Bloody Marys).

They also have a mural that explains what each coffee drink consists of, so you don't have to guess at what exactly a "flat white" is.

If you're misguided enough to order lunch, they also have what feels

like approximately 45 different chicken sandwiches.

RyeZenDine is also one of the few places in this city where you can get a reasonably priced salad; goodbye \$15, limp lettuce Caesars.

Of course if you do decided to visit, it's only right that you celebrate your valor in trying new things by picking out one of their delicious pastries or homemade cookies.

Get there by hopping off the JHMI at Peabody and going up Mount Vernon Place. Hang a left on North Charles and walk a couple blocks; you'll know it when you see it by its white exterior and big green sign.

So go and get yourself some S'Mores French Toast. Three weeks into the semester is the perfect time to treat yourself.

A sit down at the Parkway with director Gabe Klinger

By MAGGIE DONAHUE
For The News-Letter

Like the good millennial I am, I prioritize experiences over commodities, and as a cinephile I deeply value the experience of filmgoing. One of my favorite theaters is the Parkway in Station North.

Last weekend I spent my Friday night at a screening of *Porto*, a film by visiting award-winning director Gabe Klinger.

Set in Portugal, the film follows Jake, played to perfectly creepy effect by the late Anton Yelchin, who is obsessive, cringy and just a bit off. Mati (Lucie Lucas) is a beautiful woman several years his senior who sees a brief escape from her life in Jake. We don't want to see them end up together, and yet, somehow, we still care about this narrative.

After the screening, I had the opportunity to speak with Klinger, the film's director, who shared his own thoughts on producing and viewing the film.

The News-Letter: What's it like to be in the room when your film is being shown?

Gabe Klinger: I would definitely never fetishize the experience of watching my own film or fetishize that experience for anybody else, because I know at any given time there's hundred of options. People can go watch *Lady Bird*

down the street, or they could stay home and watch stuff on Amazon or Netflix or on VHS or project their own movies on 16 mm.

All of that is valid, and I don't think you can take anything personally when somebody just decides not to watch your movie. Burrowing in a little hole and not having anyone care about your work has its advantages.

But like Jean-Luc Godard said, 'Cinema is the goodwill for a meeting.' You want to connect with people; it's a human instinct. So you get out of your little hole and you show up, talk about your thing and it's a huge privilege to do that. Not everybody gets to. So I feel really happy and fortunate.

N-L: [Jake] is a difficult character to relate to.

GK: There was a gentleman in the screening yesterday who came up to me afterwards and said he was very sympathetic toward Jake by the end of the movie, and then other people watching were like, "Get this guy away from me!"

And I think both responses are valid. But aren't things truer to life when they're kinda unresolved? The problem is that we're so trained nowadays to find sympathy or not, and there's so much media out there.

So are you gonna choose to spend your

time with Jake, who's this ugly character, or are you gonna go and try to find somebody who you might like to have dinner with, like Ethan Hawke in the *Before* movies? Somebody you wouldn't fear is going to come knocking on your door at night?

N-L: You've been on tour for some time now. What has that been like?

GK: With Anton passing away I really wanted to promote his performance. I really feel like I owe him that. Not just because he passed away. I would've been doing it anyway, because he trusted me from the very beginning of the project.

He was the first person to put his name on this. So I would be returning the favor to him in a way. Not that he needs his name to get out there — people already knew he was a great actor.

But contributing that in my own small way, showing up at 50 different cities all over the world and saying what a great actor he is... I'm in awe of what he was able to do for us in movies so... yeah. I just loved him so much.

N-L: Speaking of Anton, you built strong friendship with both him and Lucie... What role has their friendship played in the making of the film.

GK: You can't approach independent filmmaking in

a kind of transitory or transactional way. You have to find people who are going to be loyal, not to you necessarily but loyal to the idea that you sell them on. And once you find that, down from the cameraman to the grip to the sound man... that's really powerful.

And you wake up in the morning and suddenly there are 30 people waiting for you on set, and they're not getting paid that much, and they didn't sleep very well, they didn't eat very well, they miss their girlfriends or boyfriends, and they're making this big sacrifice so that you can make your movie... that's very, very humbling.

And you can't ever take that for granted. You have to reciprocate that kind of respect and that loyalty. What a wonderful lesson in friendship, making independent movies. In a more industrial way, movies can be profoundly alienating to make, you know. But I've been lucky that I've only worked in independent movies.

Spending my Friday talking with Mr. Klinger was a wonderful reminder of the kinds of people that Baltimore attracts — the filmmaker went all over the world and made sure to stop by Charm City.

So take a moment this weekend to get out of Charles Village. You never know who you're sharing your city with.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Federal Hill coffee shop debuts two new roasts

By **TANYA WONGVIBULSIN**
Staff Writer

Last Saturday evening I had the opportunity to attend an event hosted by 3 Bean Coffee, a craft coffee shop located in the heart of Federal Hill, Baltimore. They were throwing a release party to celebrate the launch of their own roasted coffee beans: Triton and Triumph.

3 Bean Coffee first opened their doors to the public two years ago with a mission “to serve the local community by embodying love, excellence, and creativity,” as described on the shop’s website. They aim to create a safe and free environment where people can get together to express ideas, meet up with old friends, and have a space where they feel loved and cared for.

Philip Glenn, the manager of 3 Bean Coffee, explained that the shop uses those three main values as the guiding principles in their everyday practices, especially their relationship with customers.

“We have always been a ‘people first’ organization — from the ownership to management and furthermore to our team and guests,” Glenn wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*. “Our slogan is ‘if we know your drink, we should also know your name.’ It is such an essential part of how we demonstrate hospitality.”

3 Bean Coffee’s great hospitality shone throughout the event, which was packed with coffee lovers from all over the city. The baristas were all very knowledgeable and friendly. They did a great job of making my drinks and teaching me more about coffee.

Glenn expressed the great input the baristas had in the development of the shop.

“Each of my team members played an essential role and helped create such a unique experience for each guest we hosted at our launch party,” he wrote. “We pride ourselves on excellence and knowledge, and this crew is more than up for the challenges that came along with these new products and offerings.”

It was at this event where I had the chance to try my first “deconstructed latte,” a drink that’s exactly what it sounds like. Molly Means, the barista who made me this unique take on coffee, poured espresso, frothy milk and vanilla syrup (which was made in house along with other syrups) into distinct cups.

Then she encouraged me to taste the ingredient in each cup separately before mixing them all together to make a traditional latte. This experience gave me a better understanding of where the taste of the latte came from and

SEE **THREE BEANS**, PAGE B5

Barnstormers present Stupid Fucking Bird at Arellano Theater

By **ANNE HOLLMULLER**
Staff Writer

This weekend, the Hopkins Barnstormers presented their Intersession show, *Stupid Fucking Bird*, in Arellano Theater. The play, written by Aaron Posner, is loosely based upon Anton Chekhov’s *The Seagull*, dealing with some of the same dark and difficult topics as the Russian play in a more lighthearted and modern-day manner.

The show was directed by Emily Su and was produced by Elizabeth Winkelhoff.

The show focuses on aspiring playwright Conrad (sophomore Carver Bain), who is in love with Nina (freshman Rebecca Penner), a flighty would-be actress. Conrad’s strong-willed mother Emma (senior Sabrina Noelle Viota Archibald), a successful actress, has begun an assignation with famous writer Trigorin (junior David Gumino).

Mash (sophomore Jackie Gladden), deeply in unrequited love with Conrad, is pursued by the steadfast Dev (sophomore Usman Enam), while Dr. Sorn (senior Ian Stark) is afraid of aging into insignificance.

As Nina begins straying from Conrad to seek celebrity with Trigorin, the lives of each of these characters begin to unravel.

The show’s dramatic elements were well-performed by an able cast and heightened by sophomore Sydney Thomas’ insightful use of

music to complement the plot. Its humorous aspects, including the repeated breaking of the fourth wall, were deftly handled.

The minimalist set highlighted the experimental nature of the play, with inventive use of the set by Julia Zimmerman.

The extended opening sequence, in which Nina enacts the performance art piece conceived by Conrad, is a perfect introduction to the witty, quarrelsome, troubled characters as they interact and react to the rather bizarre performance.

Through an innovative mixture of dramatic moments and comedic scenes, *Stupid Fucking Bird* reckons with questions of love, art, fame and friendship in a moving and illuminating way.

Su discussed some of the challenges of putting on *Stupid Fucking Bird*.

“This is a significantly more rigorous play than Intersession shows we’ve done in the past,” she said. “It required a lot more of the actors.”

Su had high praise for the actors.

“I was so fortunate to have gotten the all-star cast that I did because they’ve put so much work and heart into this and I couldn’t be happier,” she said.

Winkelhoff noted that the play offered some challenging material for the Barnstormers, who have put on increasingly ambitious productions over the past several years.

“We also have been hav-



COURTESY OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY BARNSTORMERS

From left to right: David Gumino, Ian Stark, Jackie Gladden, and Usman Enam, starring in *Stupid Fucking Bird*.

ing a really good couple of seasons the past few years, and we felt like now was the time to start experimenting/having fun with our space and capabilities,” Winkelhoff wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

Su was very pleased with how the play had come together over the course of the past few weeks.

“This play is so beautiful and striking and important. And my cast has done such a great job of bringing it to life every single night. I’m very proud,” she said.

Winkelhoff discussed how the complexity of the play influenced the work done by the production team, including stage manager Shireen Guru.

“The show itself is a really difficult piece,” Winkelhoff wrote. “It breaks the fourth wall a decent amount, which is some-

thing we haven’t done in recent memory. Our actors worked tirelessly to get to know their characters, and our tech team is so incredibly dedicated and talented.”

Winkelhoff also highlighted the challenges of working in the Levering Theater.

“Arellano as a theater is dated and tech can be limited in their abilities for that, but after many meetings with our director and spending time in the space, everything worked better than I could have hoped,” she wrote.

That success under challenging conditions was contingent on the hard work of the production staff and cast.

“The flip side of these things is that because the show is so difficult, it allowed all of those involved to really spread their wings

and come up with really creative solutions,” Winkelhoff wrote.

She described how Gladden learned the ukulele for a role and how lighting designers Laura Nugent and Monika Borkovic made some her favorite lighting cues she has worked with.

One unexpected aspect of the performance was the Freshman Formal taking place in the Glass Pavilion above Arellano Theater during the Saturday night performance. While the music from it could not be heard in the theater, the sound of pounding feet above was ever-present.

After these student actors had been preparing and rehearsing through several weeks of hard work, it was unfortunate that the Formal could not have taken place on another date or venue.

Rhye follows up their critically acclaimed debut with new album



SIDE STAGE COLLECTIVE/CC BY-ND 2.0

After releasing their 2013 debut album *Woman*, Rhye spent several years touring globally.

By **WILL KIRSCH**
Arts & Entertainment Editor

If you’re a middle- or upper-middle-class progressive — especially if you’re white — there’s a good chance that you listen to NPR. Why that’s the case is irrelevant, just know that it’s a fact, like gravity or that the Academy Awards are racist.

Anyways, if you do listen to NPR, you may have encountered some of their excellent music journalism, which does its best to showcase a variety of interesting artists (if you’re from NPR and you’re reading this, my résumé stands ready).

It was while listening to NPR’s *All Songs Considered* podcast that I first heard of Rhye, the fluid musical project created and lead by Canadian musician Mike

Milosh — also known by the mononym Milosh.

The project was originally a partnering between Milosh and Danish artist Robin Hannibal, although the latter left the group relatively quickly.

Their collaboration produced the 2013 album *Woman*, which was well received by critics and sent Milosh — along with supporting musicians — on a lengthy, almost never-ending run of touring.

Milosh told *Uproxx* that Rhye had done 476 concerts between the release of *Woman* and their second album *Blood*, which came out Feb. 2 of this year.

That’s a lot of shows, particularly since Milosh and his collaborators had only one album to their names, as well as the fact that Robin Hannibal did not do any touring with the group. So

apparently people wanted a second album.

Rhye was a surprise to me; in his interview with NPR’s Bob Boilen, Milosh shared the song “Count to Five,” the fifth song on the album and one of its lead singles.

Rhye is ostensibly a sort of electronic synth-pop, although the sound could more accurately be described as graveyard seduction. Think Patrick Swayze in *Ghost*.

“Count to Five” is one of the more danceable tracks on *Blood*, with a tight disco-style backbeat overlaid with cascading rhythms and Milosh’s quaking voice. Similarly, “Feel Your Weight” mixes chirpy synths with a couple guitar chords seemingly inspired by Motown.

Yet the latter song, like much of the music on *Blood*, culminates in a bleak but romantic finale; the rhythm falls away and Milosh’s whispering voice overwhelms everything.

Much of this album — deft instrumentalism aside — is contingent on Milosh’s voice. Whether it’s particularly unique or interesting

is irrelevant. The real value in Milosh’s singing is how it almost becomes an instrument in itself.

The lyrics are something of an abstraction, with the real focus being the pitch and delivery of each note. This is most evident on “Please,” in which the instrumentation is stripped nearly bare and Milosh’s voice is left to stand alone.

You can really make out only one word in every line, but it seems like that’s kind of the point. Anyways, it’s all so breathy and erotic that what’s being said is unimportant.

Instrumentally the album is incredibly well-crafted. Everything mixes so seamlessly that it feels as if one person is doing everything. This, however, is not the case, as Milosh has recruited an ensemble of talent to provide substance behind his voice.

The mix of instruments is impressive in itself; one can hear orchestral strings, the aforementioned funky guitars and drums — supported by tambourines and other essentials — and the ever-present synth.

However, the real genius lies in how each instrument imitates another: On “Phoenix,” the ninth track, a distorted guitar serves as a stand in for a horn; on “Waste,” a high-hat becomes a tambourine; on every song, Milosh’s voice becomes part of the arrangement.

Everything melts together, each note flowing smoothly as if it were some kind of romantic metaphor I don’t have the capacity to think of.

Blood is basically the sonic interpretation of light BDSM. Just look at some of the song titles: “Sinful,” “Blood Knows,” “Softly.” There’s literally a lyric in “Softly” which goes, “I want you to come... with me.”

It’s all very sexual in a diet *Fifty Shades of Grey* way. Someone’s going to get tied up, maybe blindfolded; there might even be some candle wax involved, but nobody’s really in danger. It’s all just some good, low-risk fun.

It might be nice if it were a bit more risky though. The album, while technically well-crafted and beautiful in its own way, isn’t very exciting.

Blood doesn’t bring out any strong feelings, something that this sort of music should be able to do. It’s good, but not great, which isn’t necessarily a bad thing but might discourage one from revisiting *Blood* often.

Put it this way, I listened to this album about four or five times in the process of writing this article, and while I did enjoy it each time, at no point in the rest of my day did I think, “Wow, I have to hear that song right now.” It’s impressive to be sure, but not mind-blowing.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

3 Bean celebrates an expansion of its brand



COURTESY OF TANYA WONGVIBULSIN

3 Bean is located in Federal Hill, a popular place for shopping and dining.

THREE BEANS, FROM B3

the importance of balance in the art of making coffee.

It was also Means who came up with the name for one of the recently launched in-house roasted coffee beans. When the 3 Bean Coffee team were given a challenge to come up with a name that incorporated three,

Means brought up the idea of using Triton, the name of Poseidon's son who carries a trident and conch shell and stirs the waves in the ocean.

Glenn expressed that the name Triton symbolized the new steps the shop was taking towards accomplishing their goals.

"It was our first coffee and was our own way of disrupting the waves in this industry by making our tremendous leap into the specialty coffee scene," he wrote.

While Triton was all about making waves in the coffee scene, Triumph, 3 Bean Coffee's second offering, was all about the transition from being a coffee shop in Baltimore to something much greater — symbolized by the logo of a dove ready to fly.

"Triumph is our glorious take-off, signifying a mile-marker that this is something sustainable and enduring, and now a very important part of our existence," Glenn wrote.

He continued, expanding upon the importance of the new roast.

"It is more than just getting our feet wet; it is now a transition into something new and beautiful, and it is a 'coming of age' for us as a coffee shop here in Baltimore, and beyond," he wrote.

3 Bean Coffee put great time and effort into creating the Triton and Triumph blends. The shop first used beans from Counter Culture Coffee as their primary roaster.

However, the shop's desire to further explore its passion for brewing coffee resulted in establishing 3 Bean Coffee's very own roasted coffee beans.

With the help of Jared Cate, a coffee consultant and founder of Vagrant Coffee, 3 Bean Coffee started to work with coffee beans from Ethiopia, Colombia and Guatemala in order to find the shop's signature blend.

Glenn broke down the components and taste of their signature coffee

blends.

"Triton has a unique dark chocolate flavor, characteristic of many Colombian coffees, but also a beautiful orange citrus finish. This citrus note is characteristic of the Ethiopian coffee blended into that specific recipe," he wrote.

Triumph, on the other hand, has a different taste.

"Triumph is a unique blend, currently of 70 percent Colombian, 25 percent Ethiopian and five percent Guatemalan," he wrote. "For this coffee, you should experience milk chocolate and caramel flavor notes."

Other than the two unique coffee blends, 3 Bean Coffee also offered an array of coffee drinks that I had never tried before. During the event, I had the chance to try the "nitro brew" and the "Nutella latte."

The nitro brew, which was described to me as "the beer of coffee," was cold brew coffee infused with nitrogen. The bubbles from the nitrogen gave the coffee a very velvety and smooth taste.

The drink coated my mouth and left a unique, bitter finish. I enjoyed the drink without even feeling the need to add more syrup.

However, I couldn't leave the shop before trying one of 3 Bean Coffee's house specials. So, I tried the Nutella latte, the star of the show for me. Personally, I loved the balance of the coffee, hazelnut, chocolate and milk.

There was no overbearing sweetness, and the drink was very rich and creamy. For me, it was the perfect drink for a cold night and a great way for me to end my visit.

Overall I had a wonderful experience at 3 Bean Coffee and would recommend it to coffee enthusiasts, creatives and/or anyone who wants a nice environment to work in.

In the future, 3 Bean Coffee hopes to influence the Baltimore community by simply creating new and sustainable opportunities for coffee professionals and others in the industry.

It also has many "work in progress" events, one being a latte art throw-down between multiple coffee shops in the city. To keep up with these events, make sure to follow 3 Bean Coffee's Facebook page and Instagram.

The Death of Walt Disney critiques his legacy

By CLAIRE BEAVER
for The News-Letter

"It's a Small World" has never been creepier. A *Public Reading of an Unproduced Screenplay About The Death of Walt Disney* at the Single Carrot Theatre is playing from Feb. 2 to Feb. 25, and it's everything your childhood nightmares are made of — maybe your current nightmares too.

The approximately 90-minute show depicts the darker side of a publicly beloved American icon and his eventual demise, drawing eerie comparisons to the world we live in today.

The first thing you notice upon arrival is the presence of a man, perfectly coiffed, wandering around the lobby. He's got a smile plastered to his face and greets some of the audience members. This is Walt Disney (Paul Diem), and it begins the show.

As Walt Disney announced that the show was beginning and the ushers lead us through a dark tunnel with mice drawings covering the black walls, I couldn't help but worry about what I had signed up for. Was this going to be immersive? Or worse, would I be picked out of the crowd to answer a question?

The play is performed as the reading of a screenplay by Disney himself. I struggled to understand the reasoning behind writing the play in this format, but I suppose Disney himself was one to break from

tradition, and, in exploring this unique form, Lucas Hnath tried to imitate that.

To fully comprehend the show, you must abandon any notions you have about traditional theatre and enter the ice box or the set in which this production takes place.

There are four actors in total, and all of them, besides Disney, were sitting on the flat stage at a boardroom table as we entered and remained there throughout the play. Much to my relief, there was minimal audience interaction from then on.

Walt controls the initial announcements with a tiny remote he points at the ceiling, rewinding and cutting and fast-forwarding, thus setting the theme of the show.

Walt Disney is portrayed by Diem as a go-lucky narcissist with sadistic tendencies. As soon as Walt stops addressing the audience and talks to his brother, Roy (Mohammad R. Suaidi), the illusion of the perfect Walt is shattered.

Walt takes pleasure in the utter control he holds over not only his brother but also anyone he interacts with or speaks about during the show.

Roy is a likeable character, a foil to Walt. He is relatable. He does his best to placate his brother and give

him what he wants; he often comes off as weak and powerless. He gives in to Walt almost immediately, even assuming the blame for Walt's mistakes.

Suaidi gives the most convincing performance of all as Roy; the audience physically shrinks every time he lets Walt get away with abusing him further. The presence of the band-aid on his forehead from getting pelted by Walt's Oscar in a fit of rage perfectly resembles the character's simultaneous struggle to protect his brother and failure to stand up for himself.

All of the chaos caused by Disney's yelling and pacing and incessant smoking is almost enough to make you miss the fact that the other characters never move from their chairs; they are handcuffed to the table.

Nearly more impressive is the fact that two characters, Disney's daughter (Meghan Stanton) and her husband Ron Miller (Eric Poch), don't even speak until the fifth scene. They simply sit and react until Disney finally addresses them.

Stanton and Poch don't get their fair chance to shine due to their limited dialogue. However, something that I found interesting was that the character with the least amount of dialogue was the sole woman in the cast.

Is this to pay homage to Walt Disney's dismissal of women as inferior and another dig at his underlying evil, or is it an examination of modern theatre's underrepresentation of women? In a similar vein, we never hear her name. In the playbill, she is listed solely as "Daughter."

Walt's deterioration throughout the show almost comes as a relief. To those characters close to Disney, it certainly does. Roy physically relaxes when Disney rants about how he is dying.

Hnath plays into the conspiracy theory that Disney's head is frozen somewhere and rationalizes it through Disney's narcissism and utter belief that he is the greatest creative mind of all time.

"What's the point if you're not one of the most important people that's ever lived?" Walt shouts at Roy.

This quote sounds like something you would hear out of the mouth of certain world leaders today, yet somehow it resonates with you personally. Doesn't everybody fear being forgotten?

This is why, despite all that is bad about Disney's character, you can't hate him. You can't hate this despicable man. Why? Because he just wants what we all want. Love. Adoration. The chance to be phenomenal.

The show wraps up leaving you uncomfortable, vulnerable and a little disgusted, though at what element exactly you can't be sure. That's why you should see it.

Lover for a Day examines complex relationships

By SARAH SCHREIB
Senior Staff Writer

For those who go to the movies only to be swept up by fantastical images and dramatic character arcs, *Lover for a Day* may not be the movie for you. It's small and contained, at times presenting more like a play.

At one hour and 16 minutes, the French film directed by Philippe Garrel gives the audience just a glimpse into the lives of its carefully crafted, highly realistic characters.

Lover begins with the portrayal of a student-teacher relationship, with the pair sneaking off to the professor's private restroom together. It is unclear if their romance is serious, or if this is their first time together.

After the encounter, the professor — a scruffy middle-aged man with a thick black beard named Gilles (Éric Caravaca) — just stares sheepishly at Ariane (Louise Chevillotte), a tall freckled young woman whose movements suggest both a steady confidence and unease.

A gentle black fade then plants us in front of an apartment building with a young woman sitting on the front steps, sobbing. The narrator, an unnamed young woman, tells the audience that Jeanne, played by Esther Garrel of *Call Me by Your Name*, has just been dumped by her boyfriend.

Jeanne then lifts herself up and wanders to the home of her father, the professor from the first scene. Jeanne soon discovers that Ariane, who is her age, is

living with him.

Once this dynamic is set, the film guides us through the next few months of heartbreak, passion, negotiations, desperation and existential doubt. The three live together in harmony and conflict, with moments of uncomplicated compassion and tension.

While *Lover* does present classic situations of heartbreak and secretive student-teacher relationships, it does so in unexpected and truly thought-provoking ways.

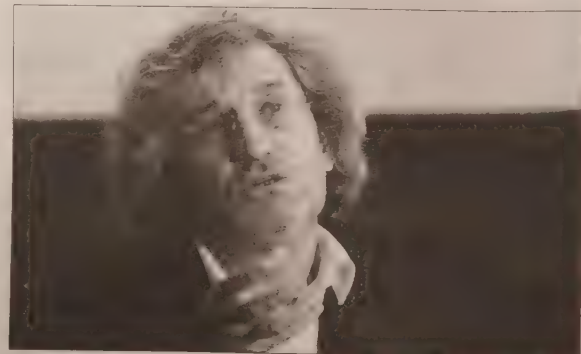
While Jeanne could have been upset at her father for dating someone her age, she is too distraught by her recent breakup for this point to become anything more than a brief topic of conversation.

Rather, this similarity bonds the two women: They support one another in their quests to understand love and find fulfillment. When Jeanne is overwhelmed by despair and tries to jump out of her window, Ariane struggles to pin her to the bed.

Ariane then convinces Jeanne to find joy in life outside of her failed relationship. When Gilles is enraged by Ariane's constant infidelity, Jeanne becomes her advocate, begging her father to let her stay.

As the characters — Jeanne in particular — stumble through the crossroads of this moment in their lives, the film asks questions about the nature of intimate relationships. The characters wonder to themselves and one another about the role of age, gender, commitment and fidelity.

While Gilles is a philoso-



JAVIER PAREDES/CC BY-SA 2.0

Philippe Garrel directed *Lover for a Day*, which stars his daughter Esther.

phy professor who presents his own notions, it is Ariane — steadfast in her beliefs — who makes the majority of philosophical declarations.

The characters are not perfect human beings, nor are they misanthropes who make outlandish mistakes or pretentious assertions. Each is sympathetic in their own way, with clear motives and apparent care for one another. When their thoughts are not as clear in a particular moment, the narrator gives us greater insight.

Lover For A Day is not a dark or brooding film. Even with the mature themes and sometimes grave emotions, Garrel manages to keep a straightforward sense of lightness. This prevents the film from fully plunging into the realm of cynical-pretentious-smokers-ponder-the-meaning-of-life.

The use of black and white compliments the simple, steady nature of the film. It gives a timeless feel to the film's modern setting and emphasizes sentiment over visuals.

Within this almost perfectly crafted film, one of the

disappointing elements is the soundtrack. While most of the scenes are not accompanied by music, at certain points in time a loud overly sentimental piano melody would swoop in and nearly drown out the dialogue.

The music is also blaring in a dreamy sequence, in which Ariane and Jeanne dance with new lovers under glazed white light. Though this artistic choice is bizarre, it does not come close to spoiling those scenes.

In its relatively short duration, *Lover* presents the beauty and mystery of life and love in its simplest forms, in the everyday moments and conversations that are deeply meaningful for those involved.

Though it is unclear if the characters will eventually learn from their mistakes or recreate the closeness they once shared, we have undoubtedly caught them at a significant moment in time.

For those looking to be swept up in this whirl of quiet intimacy, it is absolutely worth a Sunday afternoon trip to the Parkway Theatre.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Kedi is documentary film-making at its finest

By LUIS CURIEL
Staff Writer

My only New Year's Resolution was to watch more documentaries. As much as I love movies — getting lost for two hours and escaping from the overwhelming feeling of panic that comes from the news — watching a documentary is something different.

It can give you the opportunity to not only learn something new, but also to immerse yourself in a topic that you may not have had the chance to engage with.

That's the reason I found myself wanting to watch more documentaries. I don't have the time nor the money to travel to a different city or spend hours on the internet reading about an event that took place.

My first venture into this exciting genre of film was *Kedi*, directed by Ceyda Torun. The film is about the stray cats that live in Istanbul, Turkey and their lives as either wild animals or as tamed cats cared for by people.

Kedi focuses on seven of these cats: Sari, Duman, Bengü, Aslan Parçası, Gamsız, Psikopat and Deniz. Each of their stories, although not intertwined amongst each other, are supplemented by interviews of the people that interact with them across the city.

Torun's approach is an exciting way to experience the different types of behaviors and personalities that cats can display. It is also a fascinating way to better understand the city of Istanbul, showing how even the most unsuspecting aspect of a place can be so important to its culture.

The film is more than just a person sitting on a chair discussing adventures with a specific cat that they've interacted with. The cinematographers, Alp Korfali and Charlie Wuppermann, shoot the film in such a way that we get extended shots coming from the point of view of the cats.

It's as if the camera is attached to each cat as it maneuvers through the city; we have a front row seat to their actions.

It's a testament to the fantastic filmmaking that during the entire film you not only feel like you're experiencing the day-to-day life of street cats, but you also have the emotional impact that comes from the connections they make with the people in the city.

A very poignant theme throughout the documentary is the role that these cats have within the community and the individuals that care for them.

The bad rap that cats have is addressed, but instead of reinforcing the idea that cats are indeed ungrateful, the conversations are focused on the therapeutic effect that cats have on the people.

Many people describe themselves as feeling broken in a certain way — from losing all of the money they had saved in a boat accident to the loss of a sense of self — and

how caring for the cats has helped them regain a sense of purpose in their lives.

The film uses dispersed aerial shots that display the beauty that is Istanbul. It intertwines these scenes within the narrative structure, which works to perfection, taking us from neighborhoods near the water to the more centralized market.

Accompanying the background is the fantastic score by Kira Fontana, which uses Turkish pop effectively, helping build an atmosphere that makes us feel as if we really are visiting Istanbul.

Additionally, the film makes no attempt to remove the overt anthropomorphization of cats, and that's where the beauty really lies. It emphasizes how unique and impactful cats are to the daily life of the city.

The stories told could be easily dismissed by some sort of expert who can refute these anecdotes with some sort of research on animal behavior. However, what would the purpose of that be?

These stories impact us because we try to reflect ourselves upon the animals that we surround ourselves with; we believe that our lives can change thanks to them. It doesn't matter if it's wrong, what matters is the connection we make.

Kedi is a fantastic documentary that gives us a glimpse into the culture of Istanbul. In a way, it also gives us a window into understanding cats and their distinct personalities. The film is a joy to watch and the cats are some of the cutest animals I've ever seen.

Kedi can be found on iTunes.

What makes the all-time best freestyles so great?

By NIKITA SHTARKMAN
Staff Writer

The impact of a great freestyle has fallen since the birth of rap. Back in the day, a classic radio session would define a rapper's image for the coming year. Nowadays, with the death of radio, freestyles only reach the people that care to look for them — which is exactly what I did.

The first is A\$AP Rocky freestyling with Ski Mask the Slump God and Lil Uzi Vert. These are two separate videos, both of which are great. A lot of people rail on the new generation of rappers for not being lyrical enough, but these videos show what the new generation is good at: having fun and creating bouncy, upbeat tracks.

Both videos are shot in the street, with the beat coming from a car. The video is grainy and desaturated, and the audio is overly compressed. There is a general rawness to the whole set up. Rocky, Uzi and Ski Mask all destroy their verses with quick witty phrases that are clearly off the top of their heads. While these aren't "lyrical miracle spiritual" type raps, they are nonetheless great.

The videos are edited by A\$AP Mob's collective AWGE, and special effects are layered on for every punchline. If you have a spare 10 minutes, I'd recommend these fun videos.

Up next is a classic video: New York legend Jadakiss' freestyle on Baltimore's 92Q. Jada is alone with the DJ, a simple beat playing in the background. I think this video perfectly emphasizes Jada's style; it is sparse and musically simple, with all of the focus on the lyricism. With

his trademark gritty voice, Jada raps the hardest lines you've heard in a continuous stream. The flow is butter, and the lines are full of wordplay.

"Oh, I can curse?" Jada asks before diving back into a new flow. In the background you hear the DJ screaming after each tough punchline. The line that sticks with me from this freestyle is the hilarious: "Head on head collision / I'm a problem and no one can solve him / I'm long division."

The award for toughest bar comes near the end, when Jada belts, "N***** know who to call when they want raw / kiss is the cornerstone of the corner-store."

Meek Mill's career has been a hell of a roller coaster, particularly considering his repeated struggles with incarceration. Through all the adversity, Meek has maintained his status as one of the best rappers from the streets. One of my favorite Meek freestyles was the one he dropped on local Philly show *Batcave Radio* just after leaving jail in 2008.

The video starts with a younger, dreaded Meek playing *Mario*, then cuts to a radio studio filled with guys bobbing their heads. Meek's day-one friend Omelly is next to him, hyping every line up.

The verses Meek drops seamlessly go from tough and braggadocious to introspective and thoughtful; every line is raw, real and honest. "Why you think they take that time from you / cuz you need it right," Meek raps, eyes burning, speaking about his experience behind bars.

The last verse is poetry. Using the motif of living "at the speed of light," Meek continues his indictment of the prison system. "How



JØRLAND FØRELAND PEDERSON / CC BY-SA 3.0
A\$AP Rocky is considered one of the best freestyle rappers of this generation.

they givin' people life / like you gon' live again / grow up be a kid again / that's why I never waste time / cherish every minute then."

At the very end, the radio DJ says, "We gon' hold him off," ready to shut the show down. But Meek listens to no one and rips another long verse. "I remember we used to be slaves / now we whip that white like it's Kunta Kinte," he yells, in classic Meek fashion.

Onto Dipset on BET's *Rap City*. This is the best freestyle of all time, no joke, no exaggeration. This might be the best moment in rap music. To be completely frank, I wrote this list just to include this freestyle. I don't think there is anything that can match the swagger and hype of this one video clip.

The big three of Dipset — Cam'ron, Juelz Santana and Jim Jones — are in the *Rap City* basement with Big Tigger, the show's host. They're all decked out in XXL clothes, the camera is grainy and low resolution, and chains hang heavy off their necks. The beat is "My Block," by Scarface — one of the most timeless beats in hip hop.

Jim Jones raps first. His verse is gritty and hard, featuring his classic intro-

spective street perspective. "I've seen summers get cold / and players do it up until the point that they done and they fold," he spits effortlessly.

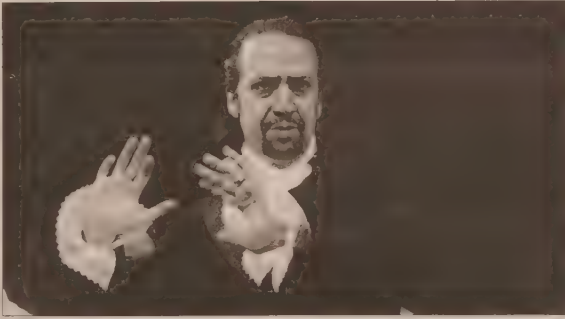
Juelz is next. His eyes stare directly at the camera, I don't think he blinks. His verse is tough throughout. "You messing with a gangster boy / you messing with some gangster's boy," he raps. He is met with a chant of "Don't do that!" from everyone behind him.

Finally comes Killa Cam, in his hand he has a fat stack of cash. Through all his verses, he is looking down, counting the money. The flow is lazy but effortless.

Every line is a quotable: "With the SK doggy I'm ok / my AK was my AKA before my ABCs had me A-OK" is just one notable example. Perhaps a more impressive set of lines are these: "Smart Pisces fresh from the Archdiocese / you got heart, fight me, I'll dearly depart wifey."

As the beat starts to fade out, Cam calmly finishes his legendary verse with, "Smack ya CEO, that's when the tec is soaring / \$4 mil from Def Jam and I ain't sell a record for 'em." The proverbial mic drops, and a godly moment in hip hop is crystallized forever.

Mark Bramble gives engaging talk on Homewood *Hamilton* exhibit



COURTESY OF STEVE JURVESTON / CC BY-SA 2.0
Lin Manuel Miranda wrote and starred in Broadway's smash-hit *Hamilton*.

By AMELIA ISAACS
Staff Writer

I was very late to the *Hamilton* party. I'm not going to lie to you, as a Brit, I wasn't that interested in a musical about America, America's Founding Fathers and animosity for Britain. That doesn't by any means suggest that I wasn't beyond excited to see the show in London just a week after it opened.

Before hearing about *Hamilton*, I had never listened to any of the music, and (I apologize for my lack of American knowledge) had never even heard of Alexander Hamilton. In fact, I knew relatively little about the Founding Fathers before watching the musical and have learned very little since then — aside from what I've heard from obsessively listening to the soundtrack on repeat at ev-

ery possible moment.

That was until I attended a talk at the Homewood Museum given by Tony Award-nominated author, producer and director Mark Bramble, entitled *42nd Street, Barnum, and Hamilton: Dance for Theatrical Storytelling*. The talk was given alongside the museum's current exhibition, *Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America*.

Despite being mainly attracted to the talk because of *Hamilton*, I was also intrigued by the other two musicals mentioned in the title of the talk: *Barnum* and *42nd Street*, two musicals I knew relatively less about.

Bramble ended up speaking about a whole plethora of musicals in his talk, starting with the 1866 show *The Black Crook*, a melodrama that is often considered to be the first piece of musical theatre

and what gave America the claim of having originated the idea. Bramble explained that the show was a collaboration between melodrama and ballet which caused outrage when it first opened in New York City.

Bramble then gave a whirlwind tour through some of the musicals in which, in his opinion, dance played a particularly crucial role. He noted at the end of the talk during a question and answer session that there were obviously many more musicals which he could have mentioned but that he had tried to pick several in which dance was particularly integral to the storytelling and which were "historically important."

Personally, I would have liked if he had spent more time on fewer musicals. He ended up mentioning 13 different musicals in the space of a one hour talk. While there were some he spent more time discussing, it all just felt a bit rushed.

The discussion stretched from *No, No, Nanette* to *West Side Story* to *Hello, Dolly!* with brief mentions of *Barnum* and *42nd Street*. I couldn't help but feel like the talk would have been more fruitful if Bramble had just focused on how three or four of these musicals used dance in their storytelling,

rather than just skimming over the many that did.

For example, Bramble mentioned that *West Side Story* is highly choreographed and even showed the opening of the movie version of the show to highlight the beautiful choreography of the two opposing gangs, the Jets and the Sharks. However, beyond that there was little examination of the importance of this decision in relation to the story and its effect.

Bramble finished his talk with slightly more time focused on *Hamilton* and its use of hip hop and modern dance, bringing us back to the exhibition and the origin of the discussion.

In discussing how musical theatre was able to reinvigorate the subject of American history for an entire nation and beyond, he pointed out how the show transcends any notions we may already have about history by eschewing race-based casting.

He joked that seeing an African-American George Washington or a Latinx Alexander Hamilton meant that everything you think you know when going in to watch the show has to be forgotten.

In the case of the ensemble, gender is also disregarded — which I think adds,

another layer of interest to the show. Bramble also went on to discuss Paul Tazewell's intelligent costume designs, referencing the difference between the flashy Thomas Jefferson and the beige, neutral ensemble around him as an extreme example.

However, Bramble did not spend that much time examining the actual dance involved in the music, apart from it being modern. He did mention how the musical had brought the story into a more modern setting with its hip hop dancing and rap music.

That being said, I will always enjoy hearing people talk about musical theatre, no matter what the specifics are. Even if Bramble didn't discuss what I expected him to, it was still interesting to hear from a Tony-award nominated director and producer.

I highly recommend that anyone vaguely interested in *Hamilton* go to Homewood Museum and learn a bit more about *Hamilton*, Washington, Burr and everyone else in the musical, and then go and listen to the soundtrack again for the 100th time — at least that's what I did.

Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America will be on display until March 11, 2018 at the Homewood Museum.

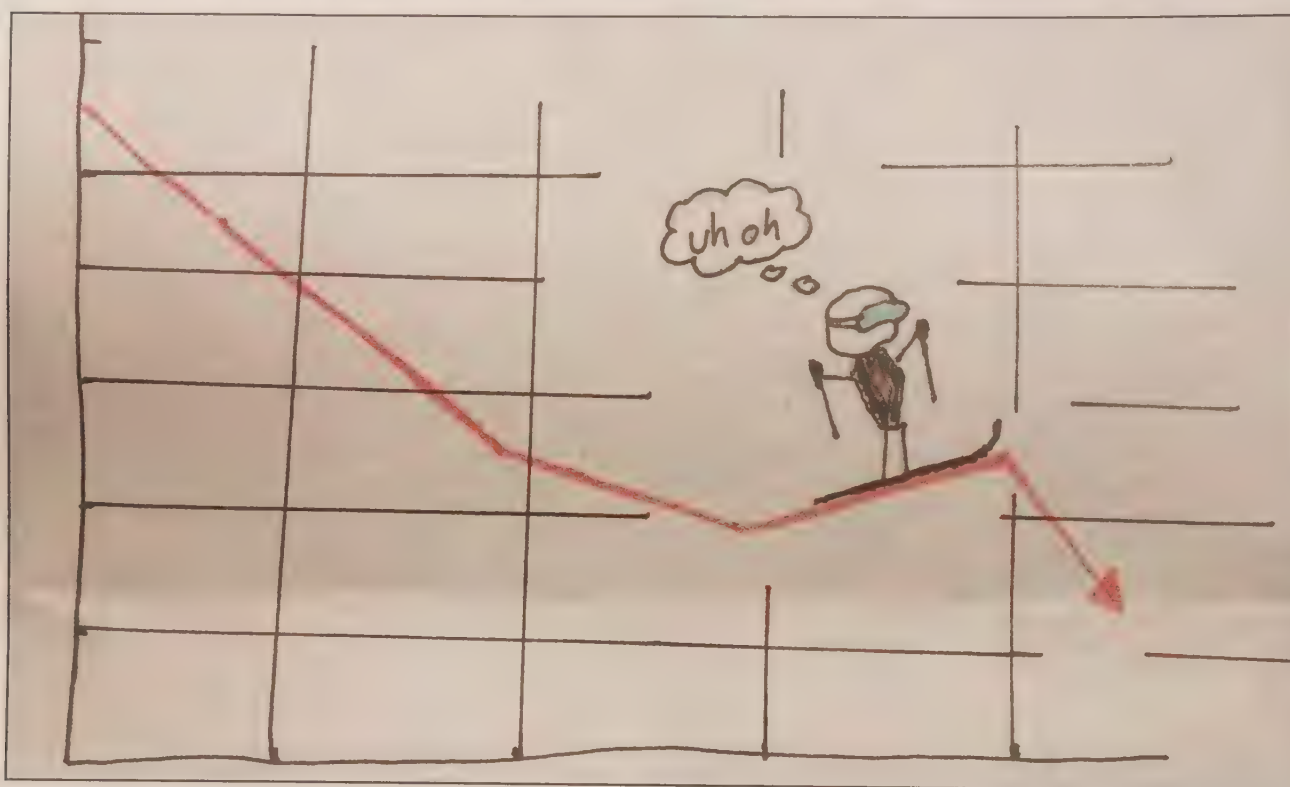
CARTOONS, ETC.

True Ash Wednesday



By: GISELLE RUIZ

Getting too greedy for the gold



By: ROLLIN HU



The ice is getting your life together as a second semester senior



By: CATHERINE PALMER



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Hopkins receives \$50M for new stroke institute



PUBLIC DOMAIN
In 2012, the UAE provided funding for the Sheikh Zayed Tower at the med campus.

By JONATHAN PATTERSON
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, it was announced that Hopkins would use a \$50 million gift from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to create the Sheikh Khalifa Stroke Institute.

The Institute aims to expand upon the University's past successes in neurology and neurosurgery while relying on the University's experience in fields ranging from biomedical engineering to psychology. The Institute hopes to bring together both clinicians and researchers in the hopes of improving stroke treatments.

Lastly, the Institute also hopes to unite expert clinician-scientists in order to improve the diagnosis, treatment and restoration of functions to stroke patients.

Paul Rothman, dean of the Hopkins medical faculty and CEO of Johns Hopkins Medicine, expressed his excitement for the future of the Institute.

"We are grateful for the UAE's gift, which enables us to leverage our considerable strengths in neuro-

logy, physical medicine and rehabilitation — in combination with our expertise in biomedical engineering and patient safety — to develop new tools for stroke diagnosis, treatment and recovery," Rothman said in a press release.

Justin McArthur, director of the neurology department at Hopkins, will head the Institute. The newly formed Institute will have locations in both Baltimore and Abu Dhabi, housing two collaborating centers.

These two centers are called the Center of Excellence in Stroke Detection and Diagnosis and the Center of Excellence in Stroke Treatment, Recovery and Rehabilitation.

The Center on stroke diagnosis expects to use genetics and digital imaging of the brain to better determine the mechanism behind the disease. The Center aims to discover new ways for stroke patients to recover and lead normal lives.

"This stroke initiative is a team effort reflective of JHU and UAE's long standing relationship, and its interventions will be fruitful for stroke diagnosis, treat-

ment and recovery," freshmen public health major Alix Park said in an interview with *The News-Letter*.

Senior Lauren Alpert, the current president of Heart and Stroke Awareness at Hopkins, added that the new Institute will shed more light on stroke research.

"Partnering with the UAE will bring more international attention to stroke research as well as patient care," Alpert said in an interview with *The News-Letter*.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), strokes kill approximately 140,000 people in the United States every year, accounting for one in 20 deaths. Furthermore the CDC states that only 10 percent of stroke survivors will recover.

Many Americans and Emiratis alike continue to suffer crippling strokes year after year. The CDC estimates that nearly 800,000 Americans suffer from a stroke annually. In

the UAE, a country with few stroke centers, half of all stroke victims are under the age of 46.

"Stroke is a global affliction that demands attention. This stroke initiative serves to design new research and treatment options, paving a better future for stroke diagnosis and patient care," Park said.

This is not the first time Hopkins and the UAE have worked together. Hopkins has been involved in UAE healthcare since the 1970s, providing specialized care to UAE citizens and overseeing several of the country's top hospitals.

In turn the UAE provided funding for the Sheikh Zayed Tower in 2012, an adult care facility at Hopkins.

Hopkins doctors were even involved in the treatment of UAE President and Institute namesake Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, when he suffered a stroke in 2014.

Alpert stressed the need for more advanced stroke treatment and diagnosis resources.

"Stroke is a leading cause of disability and death in the United States, so allocating resources towards improving treatment and rapid diagnosis will be an important advancement for health outcomes," Alpert said.

Hopkins cosmologist studies the Big Bang

By JAEMIE BENNETT
Staff Writer

Staring up at the heavens is something all humans, whether a thousand years ago or today, have done. Bloomberg Distinguished Professor Charles Bennett, an experimental cosmologist and recent recipient of the Breakthrough Prize, looks at space with the same fascination, harnessing the power of science and engineering to understand the universe's deepest secrets.



COURTESY OF CHARLES BENNETT

At a very young age, Bennett was set on studying cosmology.

"On one morning before school, I was a reading a book called *From Flat Earth to Quasar* by Isaac Asimov, and it said that a couple of scientists think that they've discovered microwaves coming all the way from across the universe from the Big Bang," Bennett said, "My jaw dropped... I just thought that was the coolest thing in the world."

Bennett said that he real-

ized then that cosmology was perfect for him, combining his two interests of electronics and astronomy.

"I decided right then and there — that's what I was going to do," Bennett said.

From 2001 to 2010, he led the NASA Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP), which analyzed the fluctuations of the cosmic microwave background (CMB). These microwaves are left over from the very beginning of the universe, an extremely

high-energy event. This left a distinct pattern of microwave radiation, which WMAP aimed to analyze to better understand the process of the how the universe began.

WMAP lead to important findings, including that the universe is made up of five percent atoms, 25 percent dark matter. The remaining 70 percent consists of a cosmological constant, also known as "antigravity." Bennett emphasized the importance of

SEE BIG BANG, PAGE B9

EPA orders cleanup of nuclear waste in Missouri

By JESSICA KASAMOTO
Staff Writer

While many may be concerned and skeptical about the effectiveness of environmental protection policies under the Trump administration, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently took a huge step forward by finally ordering the clean up of a Superfund nuclear waste site in Missouri.

Superfund is a program developed by the EPA designed to clean up contaminated land and respond to environmental emergencies and natural disasters.

This organization has the authority to order parties responsible for contamination to either reimburse the government for cleanup costs or take on the cleanup themselves.

There are hundreds of "Superfund Sites" throughout the U.S., which are especially contaminated locations that most likely require long-term attention and cleanup.

On Thursday, Feb. 1, the EPA officially called for the clean up of a World War II age nuclear-waste landfill

located near St. Louis, a site that had been waiting 27 years to receive a governmental decision on the cleanup.

To clean up the site, EPA administrator Scott Pruitt ordered an excavation of radioactive material from the West Lake Landfill over a period of five years; this feat is expected to cost responsible companies over \$200 million dollars.

While many environmentalists were hoping for a full clean up and excavation of the site, it seems pretty unlikely that this will end up being the case. While the \$236 million dollar budget is far higher than what companies had hoped to spend, it is estimated that the full cost of excavation would be more than double, close to \$700 million.

The announcement of this cleanup was intended to demonstrate the level of Pruitt's commitment to reviving America's Superfund program. However, it remains unknown whether this is the same intensity that the EPA will approach other Superfund cleanup sites with.

SEE WASTE, PAGE B8

Axolotl salamander has largest genome ever sequenced

By ISAAC CHEN
Staff Writer

Characterized by the branch-like projections from its neck and named after the Aztec god Xolotl of lightning and death, the axolotl (pronounced ACK-suh-LAH-tuhl) is probably the most scientifically studied salamander in the world, according to *National Geographic*.

French explorers in the middle of the 19th century captured 34 axolotls from Lake Xochimilco in Mexico. Later, a few of these animals were transferred to herpetologist Auguste Duméril who introduced them into the scientific world.

Today it would be rare to encounter axolotls in the wild, for they are critically endangered due to the draining and contamination of Lake Xochimilco. In fact, the remaining axolotl population is shrinking further because of aquarium trading and the practice of roasting axolotl as a delicacy.

In a recent article published in the journal *Nature*, Sergej Nowoshilow, from the Max Planck Institute of Molecular Cell Biology and Genetics in Dresden, Germany, and colleagues analyzed and sequenced the entire genome of the axolotl using a new technique called MARVEL. They reported that the axolotl has 32 million base pairs in its genome, which is 10 times more than the human genome and the largest genome ever sequenced to this date.

The axolotl is a salamander with remarkable abilities for healing wounds and regenerating

limbs. It can even regenerate damaged internal organs. Unlike mammals, the axolotl uses a wound-healing mechanism that does not involve scar tissue. Its cells can revert back to stem cells and regrow the missing tissue. This extraordinary ability makes the axolotl a considerable research interest that perhaps can revolutionize medical sciences.

Elly Tanaka, a senior scientist at the Research Institute of Molecular Pathology in Vienna and senior author of this study, shares the purpose behind this study.

"We want to understand the huge changes in the RNA and proteins that the cells produce to change from an adult cell to a stem cell," Tanaka said, according to *The New York Times*. "How does an injury cause such a huge change? We can't understand that without knowing how different parts of the genome are used to change how cells behave."

Bloomberg Distinguished Associate Professor of Computer Science and Biology Michael Schatz shares his thoughts about the short and long-term effects of sequencing the axolotl genome and how it can be translated into medical research.

"In the short term, this will lead to better understanding of the genetic and molecular mechanisms of axolotl's amazing healing capabilities. While I don't think people will ever be able to regrow entire limbs, longer term this could give some clues on how to develop medications to help wounds heal faster and



ORIZATRIZ/CC-BY-SA 2.0/

The axolotl, a salamander from Mexico, has 32 million base pairs in its genome.

more completely" Schatz wrote in an email to *The News-Letter*.

While the researchers did not find the essential Pax3 gene that plays a critical role in formation of tissue and organs during development, they found that the axolotl's Pax7 gene has similar functions to the Pax3 gene.

The research team identified only a few genes associated with regeneration, but there is still much work to be done.

"The adventure is just starting," Tanaka said. "Completing the genome will open up a wealth of opportunities in studying how organisms regenerate. We're just as excited as people were when they first decoded the human genome."

Schatz conducts research to understand the structure and functions of genomes, especially for those of medical and agricultural importance. He believes MARVEL to be an exciting, new development that has wide implications.

"I think this is an exciting development because it

demonstrates how we can now map out the genomes of nearly any plant or animal, even if they have very large genomes," Schatz wrote.

Schatz also used parts of the MARVEL assembler for his previous work to develop the FALCON assembler. The algorithm provided a more accurate picture of the wine grape Cabernet Sauvignon's DNA, which can be used to produce tasty and flavorful grapes.

Besides contributing to the development of new wine grape variants, Schatz and his research team are mapping out the breast cancer genome more completely.

"We are also using this technology for improved analysis of human genomes — we currently have a paper under review applying this same long read sequencing technology to map out a breast cancer genome better than ever before, and we are finding tens of thousands of variants that were previously missed using older technologies," Schatz wrote.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Volumetric imaging may produce “holograms”



Teresa Ng
Tech to the Future

Some say science fiction predicts future technology. Others say science fiction itself shapes technology by creating visions of the future. Either way, one feature of futuristic fiction has been conspicuously absent in recent technology — 3D holographic images.

In the *Star Wars* franchise, Princess Leia first sent her holographic message in 1977. But exactly four decades later, with its re-emergence in *The Last Jedi*, we still need glasses to see 3D projections.

This may change with new techniques developed at Brigham Young University (BYU).

Engineer Daniel Smalley and his team at BYU were specifically inspired by Leia's famous hologram. But he noted that “hologram” is actually a misnomer for what really are volumetric images, which are 3D projections that can be seen from every angle. Holograms, on the other hand, use light-scattering materials on a 2D surface to make flat images look 3D.

Smalley cleverly compared his technique to a “3D printer for light.” Laser beams are used to trap and heat tiny cellulose particles such that the particles can be manipulated. These particles are then moved fast enough that the human eye cannot catch the movement, resulting in the illusion of a solid image. Other lasers then shine red, green and blue light on the particles as

they move through space.

Volumetric projections of butterflies, prisms and a figure have been created with this technique.

In real life, this innovation could have useful and exciting applications. In medical imaging, for instance, current technology can only display data in 2D, or in simulated 3D on 2D — the way a hologram works.

Were doctors able to combine the hundreds of images produced by CT and MRI scans in one coherent 3D volumetric display, they might be able to analyze different cross-sections quicker and with higher efficiency or without the frequent eye fatigue that comes with using viewing aids like 3D glasses.

Additionally, volumetric projections can also display images at a much higher resolution than 2D displays can.

Surgeons, with the newly gained ability to interact with 3D imaging programs, could potentially get a clearer idea of how to carry out procedures on specific patients' bodies before the actual surgery takes place.

The possible advancements are not limited to the medical field.

Other fields that might benefit from volumetric imaging are the aerospace and defense industries. For example, air-traffic controllers might be able to better monitor the spatial distance between aircrafts or even the changing weather conditions. Battlefield commanders would also get better visualizations of the weather and terrain. This ability, in turn, would allow them to make better strategic decisions in a shorter amount of time, reducing the danger that is imposed on personnel and civilian lives. Such an improvement may be especially important as conflict becomes urbanized.

New brain implant could lead to a better memory

By ANNA CHEN
Staff Writer

After years of research, scientists at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) and Thomas Jefferson University came up with a device that improves the brain's ability to store memories.

In this study published in the journal *Nature Communications* and led by senior author Michael Kahana, professor of psychology at UPenn, the researchers revealed that the brain implant they developed and the techniques it employs have promising implications on treating dementia, brain injuries and other cases of memory damage.

The implant is still being tested before commercial use, but the data is exciting. Tested in 25 people with epilepsy, the device showed an average of a 15 percent increase in word recall ability, about the same amount of memory that Alzheimer's takes away from its patients over the course of two and a half years.

The new device sends electrical signals to stimulate the brain when it has trouble storing new information. When it senses the brain is functioning well, it remains silent. The ability of the implant to recognize the brain's activity and autonomously decide whether to turn on and aid the brain or stay quiet is the result of years of work decoding brain signals.

The project, funded by the U.S. Department of Defense's \$70 million contribution, was aimed to develop treatments for brain injury and memory loss for soldiers who fought in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

At the time the new implant was being tested, 25 epilepsy patients were evaluated for an operation, a process that required threading electrodes into the brain and waiting for seizures to occur in or-

der to determine whether surgical intervention may help stop them.

During this period, the scientists gave memory tests and took recordings from the consenting subjects. First the scientists had to collect the brain wave patterns from the electrodes

attached to each patient's brain to determine each individual's optimal-functioning state (when their memory worked well) and their lower-functioning state (when their brains had trouble storing memories).

Then the researchers asked the subjects to memorize a series of words and then recall as many as possible after a short distraction. Of the many word lists given to each patient, some of them were memorized with the brain implant turned on, which delivered pulses of electricity through the electrodes to stimulate the location of the brain responsible for memory, while others were carried out with it turned off, as control data.

Patients reported that they could not tell when the implant was on or off, nor could they tell if it was affecting their memory. However, after analyzing the data, scientists determined that patients did 15 percent better when the brain stimulation was turned on.

The potential of enhancing memory walks a fine line between risk and opportunity. Although this study is an important breakthrough with many



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Brain implants pose the potential threat of being abused like other brain-enhancing drugs.

positive implications, even the authors themselves caution that “memory boosters” can be misused and abused. Across the United States, ADHD drugs are commonly used to enhance focus and memory among high school and college students.

Hopkins students know all too well the pressure to strive for academic perfection. In an interview with *The News-Letter*, sophomore Alice He said that she definitely knows of students who have taken drugs, such as Adderall, with the hope that these pills would help them study for long periods of time before exams.

She expressed her concerns about the development of a brain implant that could potentially improve memory.

“I feel a bit uncomfortable with the idea of a brain implant that can optimize brain function,” she said.

She argues that this innovation could be abused to enhance brain power in people who don't have brain damage or memory problems at all.

“On a greater scale, I also think there would be social repercussions if people can get these implants.

Those who can afford it would definitely have an advantage in the working community. It would be unfair to those who do not have access to such an expensive procedure and device,” she said.

Even if somehow the implant is able to be limited only to medical purposes, He shared that she would still worry about the implant breaking down and affecting other parts of the brain, since even small amounts of damage to the brain can cause lasting damages.

The brain implant in question is not developed enough to be at the stage of causing an ethical debate. At this point, the device requires an extremely delicate operation that involves attaching multiple electrodes on the brain, and thus would likely be reserved only for severe cases of impairment.

As researchers continue to explore this study's important medical implications, from treating traumatic brain damage and memory loss, to dementia, depression and anxiety, eventually they will need to grapple with the ethical issues this technology is bound to raise.

Three decade old nuclear waste awaits cleanup

WASTE, PAGE B7

Despite corporate interests, Pruitt has recently publicly called for aggressive Superfund cleanups.

However, other than creating a list of sites that he believes are in dire need of environmental cleanup and attention, he has not done much to explain his exact plan for dealing with other toxic waste sites around the country.

In addition to the worry of environmentalists around the country, the Trump administration has recently proposed to cut Superfund's budget by 30 percent. Also while the EPA can legally force many liable companies to pay for cleanup costs, there are still many abandoned sites around the country, called “orphan” sites, that have no company directly or legally responsible for the environmental damage done to this date.

“I am concerned about orphan sites across the

country in the Superfund portfolio... I think there are greater challenges beyond money. But money matters in that side of our responsibilities,” Pruitt said, according to *The Washington Post*.

While it is currently up in the air whether the cleanup of Superfund sites may be continued in the future, it is clear that many people, including Hopkins freshman molecular and cellular biology major Sharon Truong, strongly believe that they should.

“I believe that environmental cleanup should be a major priority for the EPA because destroying nature's abundance only takes a fraction of the time it takes to restore it,” Truong said in an interview with *The News-Letter*. “The EPA's new order to clean up the nuclear waste in Missouri is a step in the right direction, and I believe it is a very promising display of our intended efforts.”

Wrap up: the latest in technology...

By WILLIAM XIE
Staff Writer

iOS Source Code Leaked on GitHub

On Wednesday, Apple requested that GitHub remove leaked iOS source code. The leak, which Jonathan Levin, an author of several books on iOS, called Apple's biggest leak in history, was confirmed by Motherboard to be stolen by a former Apple intern in 2016. The leaked code had to do with iBoot, the process during system startup which authenticates code running from an iPhone. The three-year-old source code was implemented during iOS 9, two full versions behind the current iOS 11.

Jailbreaking or removing software restrictions set by Apple threatens the integrity of Apple products, and the latest source code leak may be partly used in iOS 11. However, Apple has assured customers that the leak is not as alarming as it seems.

“Old source code from three years ago appears to have been leaked but by design the security of our products doesn't depend on the secrecy of our source code. There are many layers of hardware and software protections built into our products,” Apple said in a press release.

Amazon to Launch Its Own Shipping Service

Amazon will begin its own shipping service called Shipping with Amazon (SWA). According to *The Wall Street Journal* (WSJ), the shipping service will start with sending products from Amazon's marketplace in Los Angeles in the coming weeks. Initially the service will be limited to Los Angeles, but WSJ stated that Amazon plans to expand the service to more locations soon.

“We're always innovating and experimenting on behalf of customers and the businesses that sell and grow on Amazon to create faster lower-cost delivery choices,” an Amazon spokesperson said in a press release.

In addition to expansion across locations, SWA is envisioned to compete with other shipping giants such as UPS and FedEx by shipping anything anywhere.

Chrome to Mark HTTP Sites “Not Secure”

With the release of Chrome 68 in July 2018, Chrome will mark all HTTP sites as “not secure.” Web developers must switch their sites to HTTPS, or Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure, to continue to be supported by Chrome. The ‘S’ stands for secure which ensures the communication between the browser and the website is encrypted (embrace the S). Chrome's mandatory use of HTTPS will help the privacy and protection of its users. The announcement post also includes information on Google's open source tool, Lighthouse, which helps developers audit their sources and upgrade to HTTPS.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Studying the history of fetal alcohol syndrome



Allison Chen
History of Science

In a study published earlier this month in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA), researchers found that the prevalence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders (FASDs) may be up to five times as great as previously estimated.

FASDs include partial fetal alcohol syndrome, alcohol-related neurodevelopmental disorder, and the more well-known and most severe manifestation, fetal alcohol syndrome. All can result in physical effects, such as distinct facial features and poor coordination, as well as intellectual and behavioral disabilities.

While FASDs were previously thought to affect around one percent of children, the recent study in JAMA, conducted by assessing children and interviewing parents in four areas across the United States, suggested a prevalence of somewhere between 1.1 and five percent as a conservative estimate. It also posited a figure between three and 10 percent as a weighted estimate.

Fetal alcohol syndrome, as far as developmental disorders go, has unique social and moral aspects. Organizations from the Mayo Clinic to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) emphasize that the condition is completely preventable, recommending that sexually active women of childbearing age, who have the possibility of getting pregnant, do not drink.

Because there is a lack of data on the effect of low amounts of alcohol, complete abstinence is frequently recommended, summed up by the CDC's remark, "Why take the risk?"

Given the lengthy relationship between humans and alcohol, the idea that alcohol can affect a fetus is a longstanding one, and it has always been affected by more than just contemporary biology.

Theories have abounded since the time of Plato, with philosophers, physicians, social crusaders and the general public believing in a mix of causes and effects, influenced by everything from gender norms to race relations.

In the modern era, researchers David Smith and Kenneth Jones from Seattle are considered responsible for first formally identifying and naming fetal alcohol syndrome.

Their initial 1973 publication in *The Lancet* documented eight children across three ethnic groups with similar physical features and developmental delays, who had been born to alcoholic mothers. Five years earlier, the French pediatrician Paul Lemoine had also observed abnormalities in 127 children, although his work did not

receive as much exposure.

At the time, environmental dangers were fresh in the public mind, with Rachel Carson's exposé of DDT having been published the decade before. Teratogens, or agents that can disrupt fetal development, were also of pervasive concern. This concern was caused by two recent, unrelated events that led to visible epidemics of birth defects: the thalidomide tragedy, in which thousands of women worldwide gave birth to severely deformed infants after taking a teratogenic sleeping pill, and an outbreak of rubella that had resulted in the birth of disabled children to some infected mothers.

In addition, concerns over the social impact of alcohol renewed during the Reagan administration in the 1980s, which *The New York Times* labeled a "temperance wave."

Efforts to combat fetal alcohol syndrome became largely broad, with a "Just Say No" inclination. In 1977, an advisory from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism recommended fewer than two drinks a day, and in 1981 the surgeon general warned that pregnant women should avoid alcohol entirely. He even advised them to be wary of the alcoholic content of foods and drugs.

Later in the decade, legislation was passed by Congress mandating that alcoholic beverages bear a label warning pregnant women about the possibility of birth defects.

Especially in light of the recent study suggesting that a higher than expected incidence of FASDs, new strategies are arguably needed. The study emphasized the heightened risks that come with binge drinking, a behavior which has been increasing among women, by almost 58 percent between 2002 and 2013, according to a September 2017 paper published in JAMA.

Educational efforts that concentrate on raising awareness about binge drinking thus have the potential to not only curb the practice, which carries dangers in itself, including alcohol poisoning and accidental injury, but also to affect FASDs.

FASDs are also tied to unplanned pregnancies, which, though declining in number, still make up almost half of the pregnancies in the United States. Recommending temperance to all women who might become pregnant is unlikely to be realistically effective. Instead, initiatives to reduce the rate of unintended pregnancy would also indirectly impact the incidence of FASDs.

Currently, abstinence from alcohol is the safest measure, since so much is still not known about how alcohol affects a fetus and whether there is an allowable amount to drink. Unfortunately, raising awareness for abstinence from alcohol has not been successful.

With the spike in attention paid to FASDs in the wake of this recent study, perhaps it is time to consider new ways to approach this old issue.

Chronic diseases may be risk factors for cancer

By CINDY JIANG &
RACHEL HUANG
Staff Writers

Researchers in the United States and in Taiwan have found a potential correlation between chronic diseases and cancer risk. In this study, Chi-Pang Wen, a professor at the National Health Research Institutes in Zhunan, Taiwan, and his team have suggested that chronic diseases and markers should be taken into account while studying cancer development and mortality.

Chronic diseases are typically long-lasting and incurable by vaccines or medication. They may also hinder the everyday lives of those afflicted with these illnesses. Chronic diseases include arthritis, Alzheimer's disease, Hepatitis C, heart failure and much more. Because these illnesses cannot be cured, the only treatment for these patients is either to prevent or to decrease the severity of symptoms.

A cohort study involving 405,878 participants with no history of cancer was set up in Taiwan to investigate the role of eight common chronic diseases, or disease markers, on cancer risk. These participants were followed for an average of 8.7 years.

Disease markers are substances or measurable medical signs that indicate the presence of a condition. In this study, the diseases and disease markers evaluated were diabetes, pulmonary disease, cardiovascular markers (blood pressure, total cholesterol and heart rate), chronic kidney disease markers (proteinuria and glomerular filtration rate) and gouty arthritis marker (uric acid).

An increased risk of cancer was observed for

all eight diseases and markers individually. The eight different diseases were each given a score to show the risk of developing cancer and cancer death.

The highest score obtained for the risk of developing cancer was 2.21-fold, indicating that those with chronic diseases are 2.21 times more likely to develop cancer. The highest score observed in risk of developing cancer was four-fold.

One study in the medical journal *The BMJ* associated these high-score risks for developing cancer and cancer death with 13.3 years of life lost in men and 15.9 years in women.

However, a correlation doesn't necessarily mean a causation. Wen and his team have shown that cancer and several chronic conditions share many risk factors. But that also means that the treatments used in chronic diseases may also be helpful in treating cancer.

In the study, scientists also tested the effect of physical activity on cancer risk and cancer death. They found that the risk of cancer development and mortality due to chronic diseases and markers in those who exercised regularly experienced a nearly 40 percent reduction when compared to those who didn't participate in some form of physical activity.

The conclusions drawn from the study displayed that the combination of chronic diseases attributed to more than one fifth of new cancers and more than one third of cancer deaths in the observed population.

These statistics are comparable to the five major lifestyle risk factors — smoking, insufficient physical activity, insuffi-



PUBLIC DOMAIN

After testing, chronic disease patients showed an increased risk for cancer.

cient fruit and vegetable intake, alcohol consumption, and obesity — combined.

Despite the harsh truth that this study brings to light, there is a silver lining.

Dr. Xifeng Wu, a researcher from the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, shared her view on the subject.

"We believe that exercise is a promising approach to reduce the cancer risk associated with chronic diseases and markers since our results showed that physical activity is associated with a nearly 40% reduction in the cancer risk associated with chronic diseases or markers," Wu said, according to *ScienceDaily*.

"In addition to physical activity, avoiding smoking and alcohol consumption, maintaining healthy weight and healthy diet are also important in cancer prevention strategies."

When we talk about cancer, we usually perceive the disease as one that is extremely difficult to find a cure for. Certainly, after

one is diagnosed with cancer, there are extensive resources for treatment. Yet minimizing the risks of developing cancer is also an important part of combating the disease.

Cancer is quite a complicated disease in that, even under controlled environments, unpredicted factors may affect the final diagnosis. Ultimately, the disease is caused by mutations to the DNA within cells. However, there is a long list of risk factors which include age, personal habits, family history, health conditions and environment.

Sophomore Grace Xu found the new research hopeful.

"While it's discouraging that cancer may be caused by reasons uncontrollable by the individual, it's empowering that the research results show how strong the impact of physical activity is. Change to our health can happen with novel research results and new pharmaceuticals, but it's also important not to discount our own efforts," Xu said.

Hopkins professor wins the \$3M Breakthrough Prize

BIG BANG, FROM B7

this revelation, explaining that it means the atoms we can actually see are only five percent of the universe.

WMAP also disproved common theories about the beginnings of the universe.

"This early time, the best idea we have so far is called inflation. We tested different, specific models of inflation, and the two most popular models which were actually taught in textbooks — we actually ruled those out," Bennett said.

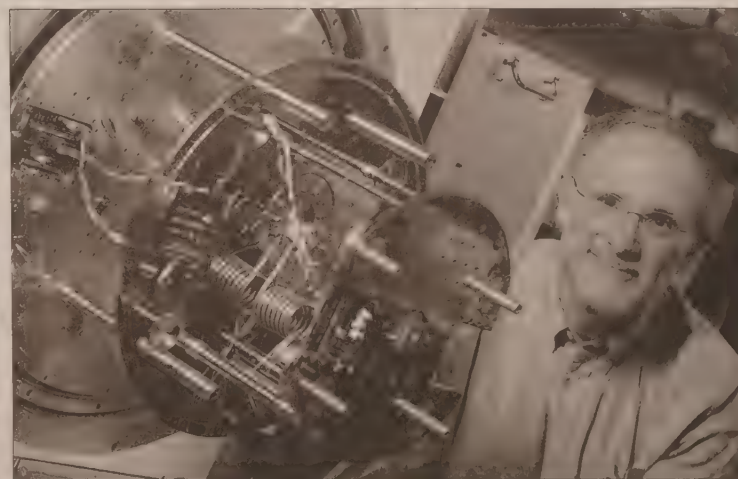
For his work with WMAP, Bennett was recently named the recipient of the Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics, a highly prestigious award in the academic community. The entire WMAP mission science team will share the \$3 million prize.

"It's great to be honored by your colleagues, and for them to say 'Hey, that was great work!' [But] when you're doing these things, you don't think of it that way," Bennett said. "When I spend 32 hours in a meeting about whether a bolt should look like this or like that, I'm not really thinking about those things."

Now at Hopkins, Bennett still does work with

the WMAP data. Recently, there has been tension in the cosmology community between data sets, and he is working to smooth out the kinks.

Bennett is also working on the Cosmology Large Angular



COURTESY OF CHARLES BENNETT

Bennett's discoveries built upon existing knowledge of the decades-old Big Bang theory.

search projects being done on campus together and make them accessible to anyone. He is the director of Space@Hopkins, which links different programs on campus, from Earth sciences to robotics, that are interested in space-related research.

Bennett also described a meeting he put together last year, where various Hopkins scientists were allowed to present their research, giving researchers across campus an opportunity to gain a better understanding of who was on campus and what they were doing.

Bennett emphasized that

science today has grown into an extremely collaborative field. Bennett also said that Space@Hopkins has the ability to match students looking for research positions with professors who are looking for undergraduates, acting as a "matchmaker."

Over the years, Bennett's fascination with cosmology and the sciences has not wavered, and it inspires him to keep looking for answers.

"I will always think about those big questions and wonder: Is there a loose thread somewhere I can pull on and make this stuff unravel?" Bennet said.

SPORTS

Predicting this year's W. Lacrosse opens season with resounding victory

quarterback carousel



MATTHEW STRAUBMULLER/CC BY 2.0

Nick Foles won Super Bowl MVP but might be traded this offseason.

NFL, FROM B12

former coach Ben McAdoo, the two-time Super Bowl champion's departure from the Giants seemed imminent. However, the organization's new leadership seems to be leaning toward keeping Manning around — at least in the short term.

I would not be surprised if Manning was dealt at some point, but for now, expect him to remain with the team. The Giants also must prepare for the future, though, as backups Geno Smith and Davis Webb are not viable long-term solutions. Look for New York to draft the University of California, Los Angeles' Josh Rosen with the second overall pick to be Manning's eventual successor.

Let's now examine the Minnesota Vikings' predicament: deciding which of their three free agent quarterbacks they should bring back for the 2018 season. Sam Bradford, Teddy Bridgewater and Case Keenum could each end up wearing the purple and gold again next season, but it is unlikely that all three return to the defending NFC North champions.

The Vikings will have to weigh the pros and cons of each quarterback as they make their offseason decision. Bradford had a strong 2016 season but was hindered by injuries in 2017. Bridgewater began his career very promisingly, but he has not started a game since he tore his ACL prior to the 2016 season. Finally, Keenum led the Vikings to last season's NFC Championship Game, but his success as a starter is a relatively small sample size.

In the end, I believe that Minnesota will retain Bridgewater and Keenum. Bridgewater should be a bargain, due to the uncertainty surrounding his health. Keenum deserves the chance to remain the starter, following his immense success last season.

As for Bradford, I see the Arizona Cardinals as his most likely landing destination. The Cardinals are a team ready to contend, and they need a veteran quarterback to replace the recently retired Carson Palmer.

Bradford will not be a long-term solution for Arizona, though. I expect the Cardinals to trade up and draft either Sam Darnold or Josh Allen. This strategy would mirror the Kansas City Chiefs' decision to move up and take Patrick Mahomes in last year's draft.

Last but not least are the Denver Broncos, who, like the Cardinals, should both draft a promising young prospect and sign

an adequate veteran. I believe the Broncos will not use the fifth pick to take a quarterback but will instead take Lamar Jackson or Baker Mayfield later on in the draft.

In order to address their short-term need, they will sign Tyrod Taylor to a relatively inexpensive deal and rely on him to help Denver contend in 2018. While Taylor may not be thrilled to sign with a team that will only need him in the short run, I see his market being relatively slow to develop. Also, the chance to play for a team that is ready to win will be enticing.

It will be extremely interesting to see how the quarterback market plays out this offseason. While some deals will inevitably backfire, others may lay the foundation for sustainable success moving forward.

A number of teams will take major risks that will determine the success of their franchises for years to come. However, these are risks that have to be taken. After all, you're not going anywhere fast in the NFL without a solid QB at the helm.

By **BRANDON WOLFE**
Staff Writer

The 22nd-ranked Hopkins women's lacrosse team got their 2018 season off to a hot start this past Friday against the Marquette University Golden Eagles.

Marquette midfielder Grace Gabriel took advantage of a free-position shot less than a minute into the first half, finding the back of the net to give the Golden Eagles an early 1-0 lead.

It wouldn't be long before the Jays would retaliate with a goal of their own. With the Jays winning the draw after Gabriel's goal, sophomore attacker Maggie Schneidreith quickly moved the ball into the Eagles' zone and found junior attacker Nicole DeMase cutting through the Marquette defense. DeMase buried a shot to even the score at one apiece just 24 seconds after the Eagles had taken the lead.

The goal would ignite a Hopkins offense that would quickly jump out to a lead on the Eagles. Junior attacker Miranda Ibello fed senior attacker Emily Kenul from behind the cage. Kenul beat the Eagles' goalie Julianna Horning to give the Jays

their first lead.

Senior midfielder Shannon Fitzgerald would follow with an unassisted goal of her own as she charged into the fray of Marquette defenders and found a clearing on the left side, tossing a shot off the turf that bounced past Horning to extend the lead to two. The goal was made possible after freshman defender Jeanne Kachris hustled to force a turnover and give the Blue Jays possession.

"Playing in my first collegiate lacrosse game was a super exciting experience. It was great to take the field with such talented girls," Kachris said.

Kenul and Fitzgerald would connect with two straight free-position shots to put the Jays up 4-1 and 5-1, respectively, and give the pair their second goals of the game. Ibello would notch her second point of the match, receiving the assist via a pass from freshman attacker Aurora Cordingley, to give Hopkins its sixth straight goal as the scoreboard read 6-1 in favor of the Blue Jays with 13:18 left in the opening half.

Marquette senior Charlotte McGuire would interrupt the Jays' goal par-

ty with one of her own to cut the lead to four. However, just like the first Eagles goal, Hopkins would respond with goals of their own, as DeMase and Ibello each scored on free-position shots.

Attempting to get some momentum going against the fierce offensive attack of the Blue Jays, Marquette's midfielder Lindsey Willcocks would help narrow the lead to four with just over 30 seconds before the half in the form of a free-position goal and an assist on midfielder Allison Lane's goal. As the teams took to the locker room for the half, the score read 8-4 in favor of Hopkins.

Riding the energy from their late first-half push, Marquette senior Riley Hill would grab a pair of assists as she found junior Cate Soccodato and McGuire exactly two minutes apart to narrow the Hopkins lead to two.

The rest of the half featured another Hopkins goal extravaganza, sparked by Schneidreith, who grabbed her second point of the game on an unassisted bouncing shot past Horning. DeMase would pick up a hat trick midway through the half

off of a free-position shot. Following the trend, Ibello would complete her own hat trick with some help from DeMase just a minute later to put the Jays up 11-6.

Wanting to join in on the parade of hat tricks,

Fitzgerald buried her third of the game at the 12:23 mark off of another free-position shot. Unsatisfied with just a hat trick, Ibello would add another goal to her total to take her to four on the day. She would then tally her second assist when she connected with Schneidreith to put the Jays up 14-6.

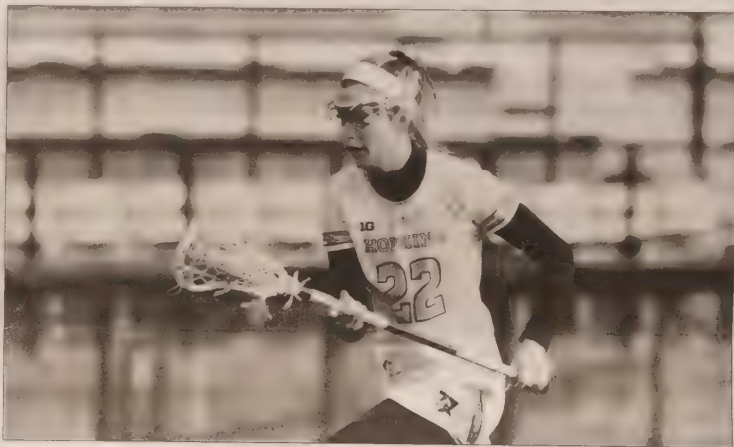
Lane would pick up her second goal of the game for the Golden Eagles on a free-position shot to narrow the Jays' lead to seven, but it was too little too late, as Hopkins would pick up the win on opening day 14-7.

"As a team, we've been continually working to mesh together, and I think that showed against Marquette. I think the depth of this team will lead us to great moments and opportunities throughout the season," Kachris said. "I can't wait to see the progress we make moving forward."

Ibello led the Blue Jays in points, goals and assists with six, four and two, respectively. Cordingley, Kachris and junior goalie Haley Crosson all finished with three ground balls each, while Crosson also stopped nine shots in net. Hopkins would control the shot count 37-26. They finished a perfect 19-19 on their clearing attempts.

Hill, McGuire and Lane would notch two points apiece for the Golden Eagles, with McGuire and Lane each scoring twice and Hill picking up two assists. Lane would also co-lead the team in ground balls and cause turnovers with defender Alex Gambacorta, each racking up three in each category, and Horning would finish the day with 13 saves.

The Jays will be in action on Wednesday, Feb. 21 as they face off against Loyola University Maryland at 4 p.m. on Homewood Field.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Senior midfielder Shannon Fitzgerald was one of three to score a hat trick against Marquette.

W. Basketball cements fourth seed in Centennial Conference tourney

By **DAVID GLASS**
Staff Writer

This past week, the Hopkins women's basketball team faced two Centennial Conference foes, the Haverford College Fords and the Swarthmore College Garnet.

Prior to their game against Haverford last Wednesday, the Blue Jays had come out victorious in four of their previous five Conference games, with their only defeat coming from the first-place Gettysburg College Bullets.

Sophomore guard Maggie Wodicka spoke about how the team has adapted to first-year head coach Katherine Bixby's system and how doing so has led to the team's success.

"From day one, Coach Bixby has talked about focusing on things we can control, such as effort, attitude and energy," Wodicka said. "The team has really bought into this as the year progressed, and it shows in our improved Conference record from last year."

Hopkins and Haverford started off close, as the score remained tied at 11 with 1:46 left in the first quarter. Four of the Jays' points came from junior guard Lexie Scholtz.

However, the Fords would end the quarter on top, scoring six straight to end the first with a 17-11 lead.

Haverford stayed in control heading into half-

time, outscoring the Jays 16-9 in the second quarter. The Fords' offense was fueled by seniors Sierra Berkel and Samantha Wetzel, who finished the game with 17 points and 15 points, respectively. Down 33-20 heading into the second half, Hopkins looked to cut the deficit.

Three-pointers by junior guards Madison McGrath and Lillian Scott, who led Hopkins with 13 points and five assists, made it a 51-41 game in favor of the Fords. Unfortunately for the Jays, that was the closest the game would get. Haverford won the game by a score of 65-47.

The Jays looked to come back from the loss with a win against Swarthmore on Saturday in Goldfarb Gym. The Garnet, sitting towards the bottom of the Conference, came into the matchup with a 2-15 record.

Both teams struggled offensively to start the game, shooting a combined 10-31 (32 percent) in the first quarter. Still, the Blue Jays managed to lead after the first, 14-8.

Swarthmore was able to keep the game close heading into halftime, thanks to strong offensive efforts from sophomore Abigail Pirron and junior Audra Woodside, who combined for 27 of the Garnet's points.

When the second half was underway, Hopkins sought

to extend their eight-point lead. Though they could not find their rhythm at the beginning of the third quarter offensively, the Jays came out strong on defense, holding the Garnet to 24 percent shooting from the field.

Wodicka discussed the team's change in approach following an inconsistent offensive first half.

"Sometimes shots just weren't falling, but at halftime we really emphasized being accountable on the defensive end of the floor," she said. "Playing good defense often leads to even better offense for us and just increases our energy level overall."

In the final 3:10 of the third quarter, Hopkins went on a 9-0 run to take a 44-31 lead. The first seven of those points came from junior guard Sophia Way, who led the Blue Jays with 19 points and seven rebounds.

In the fourth quarter, Hopkins had a commanding lead until Swarthmore went on an 8-0 run, cutting the deficit to 12 with just over five minutes remaining in the game.

However, the Jays responded with an 8-3 run of their own behind a jumper from Way and two three-pointers from Wodicka.

Wodicka commented on her timely threes.

"It felt great to be able to hit those shots for my team and continue to build

on the energy we had in the second half," she said. "My teammates were able to find me in rhythm and had the confidence in me to knock it down."

The Blue Jays came away with a 65-46 victory over the Garnet.

McGrath, who helped carry the Jays' offense against the Garnet with 12 points and four rebounds, spoke about the team's dynamic and leadership, especially as there are no seniors on the roster.

"Our class of seven juniors has had to assume a bigger leadership role," McGrath said. "In close games or when we start to lose composure, the juniors are able to huddle everyone together and settle down the team, keeping us composed and on the same page."

This win put the Jays' Conference record at 13-5, guaranteeing them the

fourth seed in the Centennial Conference Tournament. Other teams who have also clinched spots in the Tournament include first-seeded Gettysburg, Haverford and Muhlenberg.

As Hopkins nears the end of its regular season, McGrath spoke about the team's focus prior to heading into Tournament play.

"Going into the final two regular season games, we really want to work on executing our plays, fine-tuning our fundamentals and playing smart, team basketball," she said.

The Blue Jays will end their regular season at home when they host the Bryn Mawr College Owls on Saturday, Feb. 17 at 2 p.m. Be sure to also catch the Jays the following week in the Centennial Conference Tournament, as they will host the No. 5 seed on Tuesday, Feb. 20.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

The Blue Jays defeated Swarthmore 65-46 on Saturday at home.

SPORTS

The biggest winners of the NBA trade deadline



Matthew Ritchie
Sportpinion

The NBA trade deadline can be compared to the opening of Pandora's Box. It creates a whirlwind of activity that can turn a professional league on its ear, changing the dynamic of multiple teams.

It can spell the end of the season for some teams, as they trade away some of their assets in exchange for building the future, and it can reinvigorate a team with new firepower, bolstering their season and preparing them for a post-season run.

The NBA trade deadline is what all trade deadlines should strive to be. It should be rife with intrigue, drama and surprises.

This past week was indicative of those characteristics, as multiple top caliber teams were on the prowl for a deal that would propel them towards a run for the Finals.

There were huge winners and losers at the deadline, as multiple top contenders were able to strike gold with last-minute deals, while others made deals that flopped and exposed their weaknesses on the court and in the front office.

If you missed this year's deadline, you must have been asleep or living under a rock for the last week, because multiple teams across the League reconstructed themselves.

So, let's take a look at the biggest moves of the deadline and see which teams came out on top once the deadline had passed.

The biggest winners of the trade deadline by a huge margin were the Cleveland Cavaliers, led by the kid from Akron, Ohio: superstar forward LeBron James.

Before the deadline, the Cavaliers were floundering in mediocrity. Their defense was floundering, ranked 28th in the League. Their games were characterized by a complete lack of effort by the squad, getting blown out in multiple matchups on national television. They lost 120-88 to the Houston Rockets and gave up 148 points to the Oklahoma City Thunder. Their veteran-heavy squad was getting outworked and outrun constantly.

Even worse, the biggest player that they acquired from the trade with the Boston Celtics early in the season, guard Isaiah Thomas, was underperforming, averaging 15.2 points a game, a far cry

from his previous season's total of 28.2 points a game. The lack of effort and performance by the Cavaliers produced drama that only disconnected and further sabotaged the play of the team.

To remedy these issues, the Cavaliers' front office (and LeBron) made two jaw-dropping deals that put the League on notice. First, Cleveland sent Thomas, veteran forward Channing Frye and their 2018 first-round draft pick to the Los Angeles Lakers for two talented young players, guard Jordan Clarkson and forward Larry Nance, Jr.

With this move, the Cavs unloaded a major source of their defensive issues in the form of Thomas and gained a pair of electric young players that could prove to change the culture of the Cleveland squad.

They then completed a three-team trade in which they unloaded guard Iman Shumpert to the Sacramento Kings and guard Derrick Rose and forward Jae Crowder to the Utah Jazz. In return, the Cavs received guards Rodney Hood and George Hill.

These pick-ups served to bring offensive firepower in the form of Hill, who is fifth in the League in three-point shooting, and two-way versatility in the form of the 6-foot-8-inches Rodney Hood. This trade served to create a younger base around LeBron that is actually motivated to compete and win.

The Lakers set themselves up well for the future with their exchange with the Cavaliers. The storied Los Angeles franchise was able to open up the appropriate cap space for two max deals.

This is huge news, as LeBron James and Oklahoma City forward Paul George are up for free agency this summer. The Lakers made it apparent that they plan to be major players in NBA free agency in the coming years.

Another East team was able to quietly improve during the trade deadline. After the huge trade that allowed them to acquire former Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin, the ninth-seeded Detroit Pistons traded for forward James Ennis and guard Jameer Nelson. When the Pistons received Ennis, they received a quality defensive wing player who is also able to shoot the three-point shot consistently.

It is by no means a blockbuster trade that shook the NBA, but it is definitely a positive move. This move, combined with the acquisition of veteran leadership in Nelson, should prepare the budding Pistons for a playoff push.

The flurry of moves made at this year's deadline should make for a very exciting push towards the playoffs and the free agency session after the Finals.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
THERESE OLSHANSKI — INDOOR TRACK & FIELD

By COURTNEY COLWELL
For The News-Letter

This past weekend, the Hopkins men's and women's track and field teams headed to Boston, Mass. for the Boston University David Hemery Valentine Invitational. During the two days of competition, the Jays saw a variety of strong performances from both the men and the women.

Competing for the women's team, senior Caroline Smith, junior Tasha Freed and junior Gina D'Addario all broke personal records while racing in the mile. The women also saw strong performances in the 3,000-meter run and the 60-meter hurdles with junior Felicia Körner and senior Lauren Roberts earning the top Hopkins times for each event, respectively.

Meanwhile, on the men's side, mile-runners similarly broke a series of personal records as junior Scott Pourshalchi, sophomore Ted Oh and sophomore Vipul Bhat all finished under 4:19.

In the 3,000-meter, junior Alex Doran broke a school record, crossing the line in 8:31, while freshman Jared Pangallozzi, finished roughly three seconds after Doran, breaking the freshman school record.

Last week's athlete of the week, sophomore Matthew Su, had another strong week, finishing first in the long jump with a mark of 6.97 meters.

Despite the tremendous performances on the men's side, this week we look to the women's team for our selection: After a record breaking mile-run, this week's Athlete of the Week deservedly goes to freshman Therese Olshanski.

Though only a freshman, Olshanski has already contributed significantly to the Hopkins Athletics program in her short time here. A top performer on the women's cross country team, Olshanski was one of the seven Hopkins runners contributing to this year's National Championship win. With a time of 21:27.70, Olshanski placed 29th and was rewarded for her tremendous finish with All-American honors.

Her dominance in the cross country arena has translated easily to indoor track. This past weekend, Olshanski dominated in the mile-run, shattering her personal record and finishing as the top Hopkins runner. Her time of 4:52.47 not only broke the Hopkins freshman record but also constitutes the second best time nationally so far this year.

Additionally, as the anchor of the distance medley, Olshanski carried home the team of Smith, freshman Marisa Sailus and junior

Erin Brush, as they earned a fifth-place finish and landed the third best time in the nation.

Following her impressive performance, Olshanski sat down with *The News-Letter* to discuss her record-breaking performance and her goals for the remainder of the winter track season.

The News-Letter: Coming off an exciting National Championship victory during the fall cross country season, how did you handle the transition to winter track?

Therese Olshanski: The transition was definitely easier than expected because of the similarity between the cross [country] training and my training now. The main difference is the speed workouts that we do during track, but working up to these faster-paced workouts was very gradual. It also helped to be able to race the 3K during our first meet of the season so that it wasn't a huge jump from racing the 6K to the mile.

N-L: How did it feel to break your personal record for the mile this past weekend?

TO: It felt amazing to know that the hard work is paying off. Winning my heat was big for me, because I have confidence that I can go even faster. Sometimes it's more about competing than worrying about my time, because the fast times will come with fast competition.

VITAL STATISTICS

Name: Therese Olshanski

Position: Mid-Distance

Sport: Indoor Track & Field

Major: Neuroscience

Hometown: Mountain Lakes, N.J.

N-L: What is your favorite event to compete in and why?

TO: The distance medley relay is my favorite, because it's so fun to get to compete with three other teammates, who are there to support me. We are all focused on the same goal, and it makes it more meaningful when we reach that goal.

N-L: Do you enjoy being the final runner in the distance medley relay team? Does going last add any pressure?

TO: I definitely like it, because I am very used to racing the mile at this point in the season. It is weird to start at a different time than the mile-runners on other teams, but being able to catch people from behind makes it exciting. Going last definitely adds pressure, because it is the longest leg in the relay, and who I finish slightly behind or in front of is the difference between getting first at Nationals and losing.

N-L: How did the team feel about their performance in general this weekend?

TO: Everyone ran really well this weekend, especially in the miles. It was definitely worth the trip.

N-L: What are your personal goals for the rest of the season?

TO: For the distance medley relay to win Nationals.

Be sure to catch Olshanski and the rest of the Blue Jays back in action next weekend, when they head to Ursinus College for the Keogh Invitational on Saturday.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Freshman Therese Olshanski.

Wrestling takes fifth at the Conference Championship

By ADAM ORLA-BUKOWSKI
For The News-Letter

This past weekend, the Hopkins wrestling team headed to Washington & Lee University in Lexington, Va. for the annual Centennial Conference Championship. The Blue Jays placed fifth overall, behind solid performances from junior Isaac Morales, junior Ricky Cavallo and freshman Dominick Reyes.

Morales secured the Centennial Conference Championship at 184 pounds this past weekend, dominating his opponents throughout the competition.

To start the opening round of the tournament, Morales faced junior Ronnie Wuest of McDaniel College. Wuest was severely outmatched by Morales, falling 9-0 to the eventual champ.

Morales went on a tear after that, pulling out a win over Ursinus College's freshman Ben Maack by a 2-0 decision score. This set up a finals match with the No. 2 seeded sophomore REXX Hallyburton from Washington & Lee University.

This was the closest match Morales had all tournament, but he was able to defeat Hallyburton 3-2 on a tiebreaker to clinch the Conference Championship. Morales took advantage of his years of hard training to be able to claim

the third ever Conference Championship in program history in the 184-pound weight class.

"For me, a champion is the one who beats the best guy on his worst day. That requires a combination of preparation and conviction, and I try to always keep that in mind when I train," Morales said.

The victory is the 23rd individual Centennial Conference title in Hopkins history. It also cemented the ninth straight year that the team has had at least one individual Centennial Conference champion.

Ricky Cavallo also had a stellar tournament, placing second in the 133-pound category. He entered the tournament as the No. 2 seed and swept through the quarterfinals and semifinals with ease.

In his first match, Cavallo defeated freshman Matt Muller of Washington & Lee University in decisive fashion, racking up a 17-1 victory in the first round.

He carried that momentum into the semifinals with a 6-5 win over sophomore Austin Sherman of Muhlenberg College. From there, he was matched up against an undefeated sophomore Troy Stanich of Stevens Institute of Technology. Stanich proved too much for Cavallo, as he fell 6-2 to the No. 1 seed.

Other notable standouts from the tournament include Reyes and senior

Lucas Escobar. Escobar battled through a tough 141-pound division to reach the third place game in a matchup against freshman Sean Thompson of Gettysburg College.

Escobar and Thompson wrestled twice earlier in the year, with both wins going to Thompson. In this tournament, however, Escobar was able to overturn their history and overwhelmed his opponent, securing a third place finish by a score of 8-6.

"[Escobar] has an intensity that always hypes everyone else up, and it was awesome to watch him win that match," Morales said.

Reyes had a stellar tournament as well, finishing third in the 157-pound division.

His tournament started out strongly, scoring a win in a little over a minute against Gettysburg College's senior Jake Bracken. He then took on senior Zach Wilhelm from Stevens Institute of Technology, who was ranked fourth in the nation at the time and had faced him three times this year.

"Every match has been closer than the last. This time, [Reyes] lost 5-2, but he got a beautiful takedown in the third period and dominated the end of the match," Morales said. "It's nice to see that, because that much improvement over a single season usually points to even bigger jumps in the off season, so we are all excited to see where he goes in his next three years."

In addition, senior Christian Vallis went 2-2 on the day and finished fourth at 125, fellow senior Connor Joyce performed the same at 149. Both sophomore Nathan Wertheimer and junior Miles Gilliam went 1-2 to cap off the Blue Jays successful championship day.

Morales, Cavallo, Reyes and their teammates continue their season in a few weeks at the NCAA East Regional Championships.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM
Junior Isaac Morales is the Centennial Conference Champion at 184 pounds.

SPORTS

DID YOU KNOW?

Senior men's lacrosse goalie Brock Turnbaugh was named the Big Ten Specialist of the Week after the team's season-opening victory against the Towson University Tigers. Turnbaugh recorded 13 saves on the day.

CALENDAR

Saturday:
M. Lacrosse @ Loyola: 1 p.m.
M. Basketball @ Haverford: 2 p.m.
W. Basketball vs. Bryn Mawr: 2 p.m.

Sunday:
W. Fencing @ EWFC Championships

The quarterback trades to look for this offseason



Daniel Landy
DanLand

This offseason's quarterback carousel will be one of the most eventful in recent memory. With Super Bowl MVPs, Heisman winners and former Pro Bowlers among the quarterbacks potentially on the move, there will be no shortage of headline deals in the coming months.

The Kansas City Chiefs' trade of Alex Smith to the Washington Redskins was the first domino to fall, but plenty of other teams will also soon be making moves to fill their own needs at the quarterback position. Let's make some predictions regarding which new faces will end up in which new places prior to the start of next season.

I will begin with the Cleveland Browns, who have been in quarterback limbo longer than any franchise in the league. DeShone Kizer was the team's latest failed experiment after he was selected in the second round of last year's draft. This year, the Browns need to go all in and use the

quarterbacks have also been to no avail. I see these two AFC East rivals approaching their offseason searches in very different ways. The Jets figure to spend the big bucks on a proven commodity, due to their lack of success in drafting a quarterback year after year.

Look for them to acquire Kirk Cousins and sign him to the most lucrative contract in NFL history. While it may be a hefty investment, the Jets have the money to make the deal, and they need to find stability at quarterback once and for all. Cousins will be a strong centerpiece in the Jets' offense, as they look to end their seven-year playoff drought.

The Bills do not have as much money to spend as the Jets do and should resort to bringing in an adequate veteran as a short-term solution. In addition, they should do everything in their power to draft a quarterback in the first round. Buffalo will likely cut ties with Tyrod Taylor in the coming months, due to financial restraints. They also cannot rely on Nathan Peterman moving forward after the rookie's absolutely abysmal audition in limited action last season.

While the Bills should not give up on Peterman entirely, he is not a viable option in the short term.

The Bills should be aggressive in trying to trade for Nick Foles. However,

the Philadelphia Eagles may not trade the reigning Super Bowl MVP until they know that Carson Wentz has fully recovered from his torn ACL.

I see Buffalo trading for an affordable quarterback — possibly the Denver Broncos' Trevor Siemian — and drafting a quarterback in the middle of the first round. Either the University of Louisville's Lamar Jackson or the University of Oklahoma's Baker Mayfield could be solid options if they are still available when the Bills are on the clock.

The Bills have two first-round picks — the 21st and 22nd. If they are truly sold on one of these youngsters, they could trade up to guarantee that they get the player they see as the best fit for their franchise.

Unlike the Jets and Bills, the New York Giants' quarterback situation has been stable for years. However, the "G-Men" are beginning to enter a new era, as the Eli Manning era begins to wind down. After Manning was benched by

See NFL, PAGE B10

W. Lacrosse dominates 14-7 on opening day



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

The Hopkins women's lacrosse team competed in their season opener last Saturday against the Marquette University Golden Eagles. Three Blue Jays, junior attacker Nicole DeMase, junior attacker Miranda Ibello and senior midfielder Shannon Fitzgerald, all recorded hat tricks and were too much for the Golden Eagles to handle. The Jays will return to Homewood Field for an intense showdown against rival Loyola University Maryland next Wednesday, Feb. 21.

PAGE B10

Wrestling finishes fifth at Championship

With solid performances from juniors Isaac Morales, Ricky Cavallo and freshman Dominick Reyes, the Blue Jays took fifth at the annual Centennial Conference Tournament.

PAGE B11

Athlete of the Week: Therese Olshanski

Freshman Therese Olshanski shattered her personal-best time in the mile-run and finished as the Blue Jays' top runner at the David Hemery Valentine Invitational last weekend.

PAGE B11

W. Basketball takes fourth seed

With a loss against the Haverford Fords and a win against the Swarthmore Garnet, the Blue Jays will take the fourth seed in the upcoming Centennial Conference Tournament.

PAGE B10

M. Basketball wins second double-overtime thriller

By HALEY CROSSON
For The News-Letter

The Hopkins men's basketball team won a thriller on Saturday in their last regular season game in Goldfarb Gym. They upset the 11th-ranked Swarthmore College Garnet 93-91 in double overtime. The weekend victory marked their second double-overtime win against a ranked opponent of the week.

The game against Swarthmore was a back-and-forth battle during the first 10 minutes. Senior guard Jesse Flannery helped the Blue Jays pull away with a clutch jumper from the foul line midway through the first half. His jumper sparked a 9-0 run by the Jays, and he finished the game with a career-high 15 points. His most important points came at the end of the first overtime, as he sunk two foul shots to tie the game up with just half

a second left in the period.

The Blue Jays secured the win on Saturday by shooting close to 50 percent from behind the arc. They made 14 out of their 30 three-point attempts, counting for a total of 46.7 percent from beyond the arc. Junior guard Michael Gardner converted four of his five three-point attempts. Flannery, senior forward Kyle Doran and freshman guard Joey Kern all made three three-pointers to help the Blue Jays.

"Our focus the whole game was to drive the ball hard from the perimeter and get the ball in the post to our big men," Flannery said. "Once they adjusted to our aggression, we did a really good job of finding the open man and got a lot of open threes."

The Jays would head into halftime with a 33-24 lead. Utilizing this momentum, the Jays increased their lead to 54-44 at the 7:55 mark of the second half following a

three-pointer from Gardner.

"On offense, we moved the ball extremely well and took advantage of what they gave us, leading to a lot of open threes that we capitalized on," Gardner said. "Down the stretch, we kept hitting big shot after big shot."

Swarthmore nevertheless put up a great fight the whole game. That fight led to a 15-5 run in response to Gardner's three-pointer.

The Garnet run was spurred by a layup by junior Cam Wiley, who led Swarthmore with 19 points in 38 minutes.

After the Garnet tied it up at 59, the game would be a battle, with neither team leading by more than four points. Doran would knock down one of two free throws with 15 seconds remaining in regulation to force the first overtime.

In the overtime period, the Jays did not lead a single time. They went down by as many as four points with 23 seconds left in the game. A three-pointer from Kern and a missed free throw from Swarthmore set the stage for Flannery's two free throws to send the game to a second overtime.

The second overtime was back and forth, with both teams trading slim leads. A layup from junior forward Joey Fitzpatrick tied the game with 21 seconds left, but freshman guard Conner Delaney misguidedly fouled Wiley to give the Garnet a chance to take the lead.

Wiley only made one

of two free throws, opening the door for Hopkins. Gardner pushed the tempo and knocked down another three-pointer from the wing to put the Blue Jays up by two with six seconds remaining.

"When we lost a lot of our bigs to foul trouble, we moved to a quicker lineup which was tough for them to keep up with. It's a real testament to how this team truly believes that we can win no matter what the circumstances," Gardner said. "We will play to the final whistle always."

Delaney added a game-high seven assists, along with 11 points. Delaney is just three assists away from 100 on the season. Junior forward Daniel Vila was also a key performer for the Blue Jays until he fouled out late into the game. He finished the game with 15 points and a team-high nine rebounds.

The Blue Jays impressed a crowd of 700 people in Goldfarb Gym on Senior Day. Players Flannery and Doran are seniors who will graduate at the end of the semester.

"[Saturday] was an awesome experience. I've loved playing at home the last four years because we have great students that show us a ton of support. Saturday night was no different," Flannery said. "That might be the best crowd we've gotten in my time here. It was a great way to go out."

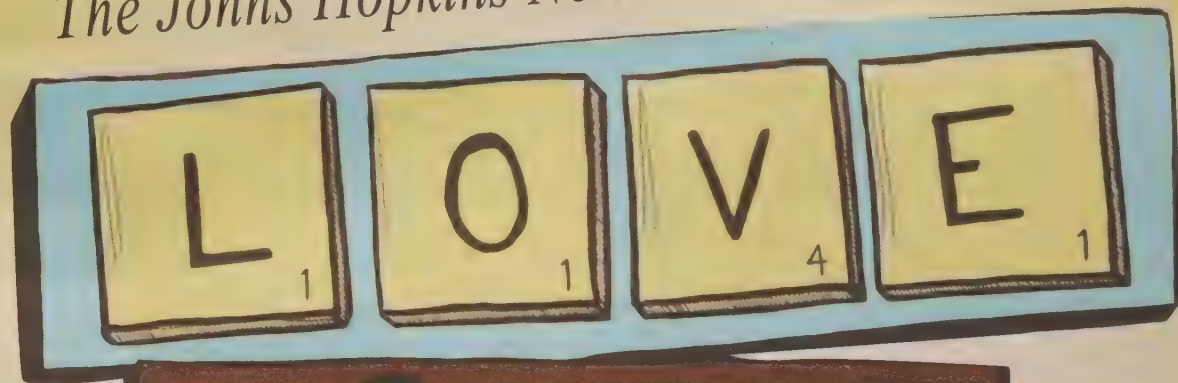
Hopkins will play their last game of the regular season on Saturday at Haverford College at 2 p.m.



HOPKINSSPORTS.COM

Senior Jesse Flannery made two crucial free throws at the end of overtime.

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter presents:





Letter from the Editor

When I was a kid, Valentine's Day was about candy and friendship. The day before it, every kid in the class would make a little mailbox. Then on Valentine's Day, we'd all pass out our valentines. They were impersonal and would often come with a lollipop or a chocolate. We didn't really care who we gave them to. We just wanted the candy. It was like Halloween, only pinker.



Now, as a second-semester senior in college, I've formed a different opinion on the holiday. Don't get me wrong — I'm still all over the discounted candy aisle on the day after — but I'm much more aware of how many different ideas people have about this day. Some love it; some hate it; some think it's just about capitalism; and some think we shouldn't celebrate it because of its dark history. We'd like to use it as an opportunity to examine how we view love, sex and relationships.

In this magazine, our writers engage with society's preconceived notions about sex and love. They ask big questions: How has heteronormativity in education been harmful to the queer communities? Why is a woman's virginity still such a big deal? What happens after you lose your first love? And the kicker — can men and women really just be friends?

In sharing their personal stories, our writers embraced some ideas that we all should, like female empowerment, self-acceptance and emotional vulnerability. Why do so many women take birth control? What's it like to struggle with your sexuality? Why is it so much easier to listen to someone else's problems than to talk about your own?

Don't worry, we also asked the burning questions: Is there really a hookup culture at Hopkins? How many students have had sex? And most importantly — where would you have sex on campus?

Love and sex pervade every aspect of our lives, from pop culture to personal identity to platonic relationships. We need to challenge the norms and talk about the taboos so we can develop healthier relationships with ourselves and with others. I hope there's something in this magazine that leads you in that direction, no matter who you are.




— Gillian Lelchuk
Magazine Editor 2017-2018

Love, Sex and Relationships

The friend zone.....3	The politics of birth control.....10
Long-distance love.....4	The misogyny of virginity....11
Discovering polyamory.....5	Sex education and heteronormativity.....12
Finding yourself after heartbreak.....6	Never been kissed.....13
Emotional vulnerability.....7	Fiction: <i>Luna</i>14
A sexy survey of <i>News-Letter</i> writers & editors.....8-9	
Sex in <i>Game of Thrones</i>15	

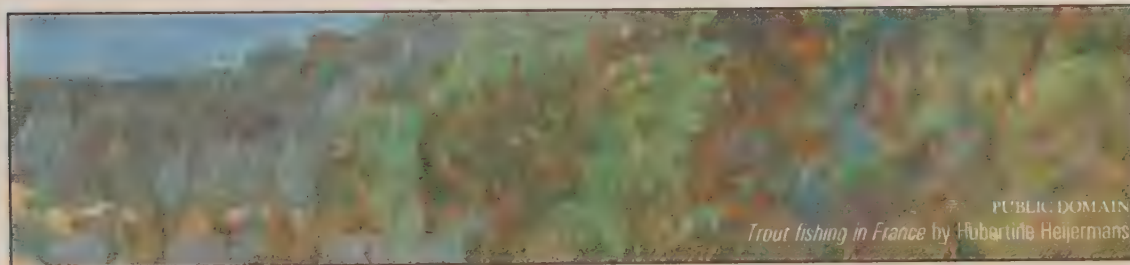
Love, Sex and Relationships is a special publication of *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter*, the student newspaper of Johns Hopkins University. For general inquiries or information on how to join, email managing@jhunewsletter.com.

The News-Letter can be found online at jhunewsletter.com, in print every Thursday during the school year and on the social media sites below.

 JHU News-Letter  @jhunewsletter  @jhunewsletter



Grappling with the friend zone in modern relationships



By **MATTHEW RITCHIE**
For *The News-Letter*

The friend zone. The proverbial Sunken Place in which people hate to be caught. For some, it could be the worst possible thing that could ever happen.

I see countless examples of people lamenting being put in the friend zone every day. As I scroll through my timeline on Twitter, I lose count of the number of tweets in my feed with women putting guys in the friend zone. These tweets are subsequently blasted by dudes responding with stuff like, “RIP to homie over here” or “SMH, he ain’t never escaping the friend zone.”

In the millennial world of relationships and human interaction, the only perceived parallels to the friend zone are death row or purgatory. It’s as if the idea of a strictly platonic relationship between two people where romantic love is unrequited is impossible to keep up.

In the modern world, many people view this type of relationship as the end of the road. This close-minded view that many hold regarding platonic relationships creates a problematic atmosphere where people are unable to interact without trying to constantly hook up with each other.

Now, that’s not to say I don’t understand the pain of the friend zone. Trust me, I understand it. The earlier years were rough, man. My adoles-

cence was mired with instances of painful, unrequited love. It probably wasn’t helped by the fact that I was an emotional, immature teenager who believed that romance was the most important thing in the world.

And apparently, all of the girls that I attempted to court were only interested in being friends with me. As a hormonal child, you have to understand my pain and frustration. My thought process was, “How could I only be friends with someone that I find so amazing?”

My stubborn self would run into the same mistake every time: I would only look romantically at the people whose personalities I was attracted to. Whether it was Julia in the seventh grade, Sarah in the eighth grade or Kathleen in the 11th grade, I would get upset that they didn’t reciprocate my romantic

feelings, and I would lose any sort of meaningful relationship with them.

That’s the problem with viewing the friend zone as the end all and be all of relationships. You start to look down on the idea of having friendships with someone of the opposite sex (assuming that’s who you’re attracted to). It creates a negative connotation about the concept of platonic love and friendship. More often than

not, though, these types of relationships are stronger in the long run.

When you’re young, romantic relationships can be fleeting and fragile. You’re not always going to remember little Susie

from 10th grade who you dated for two months; or little Jimmy who you dated for three weeks but stopped texting because he bored you so soon after you thought he was “special.” However, it is much more likely that

you will remember and cherish the memory of your close friend who you loved and cared about platonically.

People look down on platonic relationships. But relationships can be much more meaningful without the distractions of sexual desire and its potential to cloud our judgement. Friendship can be a beautiful thing: It’s a relationship that comes without the awkward interactions and the complications that come with catching feelings. Without the burden of romantic feelings, friendship gives you a person that you can just have a conversation with, someone you can have a legitimate connection with. With friendship, there isn’t a possibility of losing the relationship because of miscommunication and unrequited feelings.

It feels like the millennial consensus is that a relationship like this can’t truly exist. But it should. The importance of having a stable friendship outweighs the missed opportunity for a hook-up.

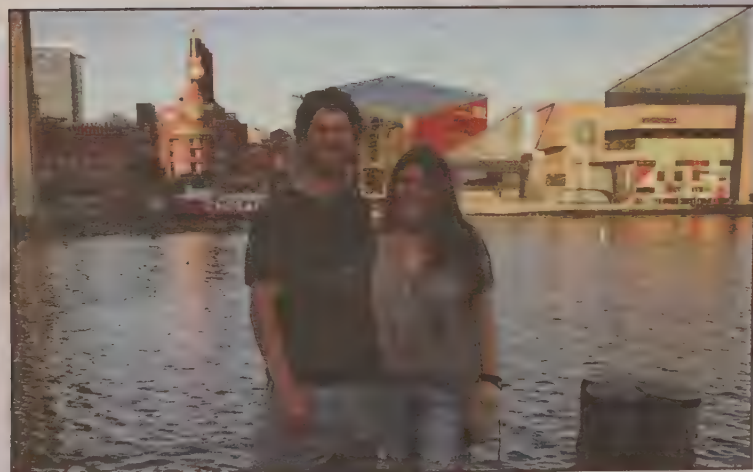
Realistically, the friend zone isn’t a punishment or a death sentence. It can actually lead to a meaningful, platonic relationship that can be strong and mutually beneficial for both people involved. It’s time for our generation to stop looking at the friend zone as the worst thing in the world, and for us to start looking at it as an opportunity for a strong and meaningful friendship. Give friends a chance, but not that trash show from the ‘90s.



Love, Sex and Relationships



Learning to love from 300 miles away



COURTESY OF DAVID GLASS

After spending a few months apart, David's girlfriend, Sydney, visited him at school in Baltimore.

By **DAVID GLASS**
Staff Writer

I have been dating my girlfriend, Sydney, since Valentine's Day in the eighth grade. Yesterday marks our seven-year anniversary. (There were two relatively short breakups mixed in there, but we don't have to talk about those.) You'd think that asking a girl out on Valentine's Day is corny, and you would probably be right, but eighth-grade me thought it was quite clever and that it would be an easy way to remember any anniversaries.

By the time we got to our senior year of high school, we didn't really know what it was like to be apart. Not only had we barely spent time apart from each other during the four years we had been going out up to that point, but we were family friends who had lived just three blocks away from each other our entire lives.

At the end of senior year, after I had committed to Hopkins and

Sydney had decided to attend Quinnipiac University five hours away in Connecticut, we started to think constantly about what maintaining a long-distance relationship was going to be like.

In just those first few weeks of freshman year, we learned so much about the difficulties of being in a long-distance relationship.

Little fights could turn into big ones so easily. As we started to go out and meet tons of new people and grow accustomed to being away from home, we kept fighting about things that we should never have wasted our breath over. Text messages could be so easily misconstrued, and solving relationship issues was so much more difficult to do when we were 300 miles away. Our problems only worsened.

Before college, when one of us started a pointless argument, several years together had taught us that it was generally because one of us was hungry — an easy problem to fix. Unfortunately, we knew that facing our problems when we were apart

would not be as simple.

At some point, we took a step back and tried to figure out where all the fights stemmed from. Neither of us could even remember. That's when we realized that nothing we were arguing about was worth it. We realized that there was no point in wasting the minimal time we had to talk to each other by fixating on the little things.

Not that it's a great excuse, but the real root of those fights was the fact that we missed each other. We were frustrated that we wouldn't be able to see each other for so long. Since so much of our time spent apart was focused on these frustrations, it was often challenging to keep the relationship exciting.

The best and easiest way that we found to avoid feeling like the relationship was stalling or getting old was to just make time for each other. Whether that was by calling each other randomly throughout the day or

scheduling times throughout the week to FaceTime, we kept each other updated on what was new in our lives, which helped us keep the relationship exciting.

We never felt the need to do cheesy things. As much as we could, we tried to treat our relationship as if we weren't apart. The only difference was that we put in the extra effort to make up for not being able to spend more time together.

We learned to make the most of the time we got to spend together while visiting each other or meeting up at home during college breaks. That is time we definitely never took

for granted, time during which we tried to make up for the weeks lost when we were apart.

One important consequence of long distance, though, is actually a positive one. Being away from each other allowed us to grow as individuals. Being together for so many years before we went to college, I hadn't truly realized how significant a part of me and my life Sydney had become.

Coming to college with a clean slate, I felt like I was starting most of my life over again. I met so many new people and explored so many opportunities that weren't available to me in high school. But the best part of this experience for me was knowing that no matter what I chose to do, I had someone to support me and give me advice whenever I

needed it.

The best part was knowing that no matter what I chose to do, I had someone to support me.

Regardless of how independent we are when we're apart, Sydney and I are still a huge part of each other's lives, to the

point where we're also a part of each other's friends' lives. As many of my friends can attest, I keep them updated on what's going on in Sydney's life as much as I do mine.

Spending time apart is difficult, regardless of how long we've been together. Instead of dreading the rest of the time we have to spend in a long-distance relationship, we try to focus on how excited we are to see each other again.

Undeniably, the process is extremely challenging. But the ability to push through those challenges is what makes the entire experience worthwhile.



Repeating my high school identity struggle: embracing polyamory

By JACOB TOOK
News & Feature's Editor

For me, the process of coming to terms with my sexuality was long and unpleasant. I was isolated during eighth and ninth grade, so when I finally came out as a high school sophomore it felt like I had figured it all out. That was it. No more identity struggle.

And for years I stuck with the label 'gay.'

Recently, though, I've started to notice an incongruity between my sexual attraction and my romantic feelings.

This incongruity doesn't make me question whether I'm gay. Boys are a lot of things. Sometimes they're great. Sometimes not so much. For better or worse, I'm mostly attracted to boys. But in the last few months I've started to think about other labels. And that terrifies me.

You may know that a whole string of letters follows LGBTQ, each standing for a different identity that makes up part of the community.

These identities are often marginalized, which can make it hard to find education about the labels or even find people who use them. Bisexuals have to deal with enough stigma, and they're two letters away from the front of the acronym. Imagine what it's like for someone who's questioning polyamory.

That was a really sneaky, backhanded way for me to introduce polyamory, and I'm sorry. But it really does terrify me. Questioning

my identity like this takes me back to eighth grade. I was so scared of being gay that I made a deal with myself to only be attracted to boys at night, like some kind of rainbow batman.

But I have other reasons to be scared. Even in the LGBTQ community, polyamory is often highly stigmatized. As far as I'm aware, I don't have any

polyamorous friends or mentors to whom I can turn to to ask questions or for reassurance.

I've also gotten mixed reactions from the people I have talked to about it. For the most part, my friends are supportive and encourage me to be myself.

But some have told me that polyamory is just being slutty. Others have said that I'll realize that I'm not actually polyamorous when I fall in love because I'll only think about one person.

The thing about monogamy, though, is that it doesn't make much sense to me. A friendship can be as deep and as emotional as a romantic relationship, and you can certainly have more than one friend.

What makes a romantic relationship different? Sex? Almost all of the sex that I've had in my life has been completely devoid of any romance. Am I proud of that? No, but it shows me that sex, at least for me, doesn't make a romantic relationship.

On the flip side, I'm very used

to having intense romantic feelings for boys who I can't have sex with. That's a product of being gay around straight men (a very few straight men — please don't think that I'm pining after every straight guy I know). But once again, that shows me that sex is not a requirement for romantic feelings.

So if it's not sex, then what distinguishes a

If it's not sex, then what distinguishes a friendship and a romantic relationship?

friendship and a romantic relationship?

Let's think about monogamy a bit more. I've been told that when I fall in love, I'll al-

ways want to be with that person. I'll always be thinking about that person, they'll always be my priority. Sounds healthy, right?

It's common for people in healthy relationships to say that their partner is their best friend. That's a healthy relationship. Not the kind of all-consuming obsession that would prevent me from thinking about anyone else or wanting to be with anyone else.

Now if you're in a monogamous relationship and you find it fulfilling and empowering, that's great, and I truly support you.

But what if monogamy came from the idea that women are property? What if it came from the idea that a woman could only belong to one man (her father and then her husband)? And what if the 'obsession' narrative was created by those men who were jealous of the woman's attention?

Why is it that a man sleeping with many women is cool, while a woman who sleeps with many men is a slut?

If I take that as the foundation of monogamy, it starts to seem like an even less attractive concept. Maybe there are other explanations of monogamy that I'm missing? But it doesn't seem like a natural phenomenon, because there aren't many animal species that take part in monogamy.

With all of that considered, the most important thing for anyone questioning their identity is that they feel comfortable with themselves and can shine like the stars they are. That might sound cheesy, but we use a special word to describe polyamorous relationships: constellations.

Polyamory doesn't make me a slut. It doesn't mean I can never be in a monogamous relationship, or that I'm going to cheat on my partner. It doesn't mean that I'm greedy, or that I'm afraid of commitment, or that I want to have sex with everyone.

But polyamory has put some strain on my relationships with some people. It has put me through a few months of stress, fear and uncertainty. When I came out as gay back in high school, I never wanted to go through it again.

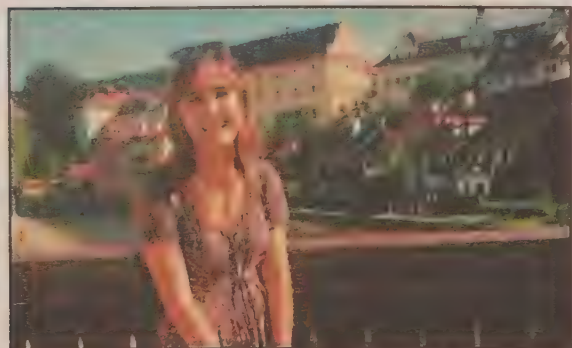
Something I learned during that experience, though, is that life is much easier if you live it honestly. I want to live empowered and live fulfilled, and so I have to myself is the most important part of what I'm proud to be who I am.

I am a Johns Hopkins student, a writer, an aspiring journalist, a cat-person, a Hufflepuff. And I am polyamorous.

Love, Sex and Relationships



Love after love: finding myself after my first heartbreak



COURTESY OF LILY KAIRIS

Lily Kairis first fell in love while studying abroad in the Czech Republic.

By **LILY KAIRIS**
Staff Writer

Before I ever experienced romantic love, I spent years wondering how it might feel. From early 2000's Taylor Swift ballads to my grandparents' slow dance at their 50th wedding anniversary: The world around me was teeming with romance. Beyond that, when I turned 13, the interrogations began. At family reunions, elderly men I barely knew would pinch my cheeks and inquire, "So, any dates? A beautiful girl like you, I'm surprised you're not already married." Please keep in mind, I was 13 years old.

Yet, despite the strangeness of these anecdotes, my experience is actually quite universal.

This is something I see even more prevalently now, as a senior in college. As my peers and I age, we feel increasing pressure to "find someone." Women compare themselves to their coupled-off friends, panicking about the implications of being single. "Am I not pretty enough, not suggestive enough, not cool enough, not approachable enough? What's wrong with me?" It is a downward spiral of self-deprecation: one that even I, around sophomore year of college,

found myself falling into.

But none of my anxieties or my romantic musings could prepare me for the eventual realities of love.

It happened in the fall of 2016, under circumstances as clichéd as they can possibly be. I was study-

ing abroad in Prague, and we were both students in film production. He sought me out immediately. I'm not sure why I caught his attention (Was it the bangs? The stretching in public?), but only a day after we met, this boy was already making a concentrated effort to stand next to me on our tram ride to class.

Every morning, he would elbow his way through our classmates, place his hand inches from mine on the railing and proceed to interrogate me: "What's your favorite movie? The best meal you've ever had? Your favorite childhood memory?" My roommates called him my "adopted Labrador," mocking how he would audibly pant every time I smiled.

Ordinarily, this would have irked me. Despite my romantic leanings, I had built up a low tolerance for men who gave me unsolicited attention. Yet, I found him oddly charming. I also figured that soon enough, he would grow tired of my boring answers to his questions, realize I was not the Manic-Pixie-Dream-Girl he envisioned and move on.

But that didn't happen. A week after we met, he asked me on a date. Then it all happened — as the cliché goes — so fast.

He asked me on seven dates in a row — glow-in-the-dark mini golf,

waterfront dining, paddle boating, a walk through the rose garden — before eventually "popping the question" like a proposal: "Will you be my girlfriend?" Suddenly, I found myself embodying the fictional couples I had long observed. We made each other playlists, we bought each other flowers and we texted each other mushy compliments every second we were apart. It was (by some definitions) "disgusting," but in the thick of this romance, I felt more special and validated than I ever had.

As in the case of many abroad romances, however, this one did not stand the test of time.

Eventually, it was "long-distance" (Washington D.C. versus Baltimore) that tore us apart. He was an extreme workaholic, and once we returned to the U.S., he struggled to prioritize an emotional connection over his career ambitions. We broke up in February of 2017, after a tearful phone call in which he proclaimed that he wished he could be "good enough for me." At the time, this felt oddly inconclusive. I could not accept this as the end.

For the next seven months, we stayed in contact. In retrospect, that was incredibly unhealthy. Looking back, I realize that I clung to this relationship because I believed it was the best thing that ever happened to me. This boy gave me my first taste of romantic love, and despite how obsessively I had studied the theories (TED Talks by Helen Fisher, lectures by Socrates, poems by E.E. Cummings, lyrics by Frank Sinatra), but no science or art can fully encapsulate the feeling of loving. It was a comfort and an addiction that I could not let go of.

To my defense, neither could he. It took nearly a year of toxic "friendship" for me to realize that I needed to move on. Mutually, we agreed to stop talking. And that was the wisest decision I ever made.

In the months since, I have filled in the spaces of romantic longing with deep appreciation for myself. I realized that I cherished this relationship not so much for who he was but more so for who I was with him. A week after we stopped talking, I confided in my mother, "I just miss having someone to fret over: to send cheesy words of affirmation, to share my favorite songs with, to tell about my day. I miss having a favorite person."

My mom replied, "What if your favorite person is yourself?"

I know it sounds ridiculously narcissistic, but in time, this has become the truth.

No science or art can fully encapsulate the feeling of loving. It was a comfort and addiction that I could not let go of.

Since my breakup, I have found so much fulfillment from friendships. There are dozens of people who fill my life with joy and support, and

these are now the people I text with emoji-laden compliments and updates about my day. I have learned that the comfort of loving does not have to be romantic. At the end of the day, however, I believe that the strongest bond you will ever experience is the bond you create with yourself.

Before my breakup, I did not quite understand this. I did not see the allure of "me time," but nowadays I cherish it. I write myself encouraging post-its; I buy myself chocolate; and I make myself playlists. Like any serious relationship, this self-love is a bond I have put time and effort towards maintaining. And I am proud to say, we are still going strong.

Love, Sex and Relationships



Love as a two-way street: learning the value of vulnerability

By **KELSEY KO**
Managing Editor

It was a particularly brisk day — the kind of fall day that teeters right at the edge of winter — when I crossed 31st Street last semester and made my way to the Counseling Center for my very first appointment. I wasn't necessarily going to counseling for mental health issues, I was going to confront a fear that I've always had: therapy.

While some people are scared of heights or needles, I've always been pretty terrified of sharing my feelings. I felt anxious while walking those few short blocks, my palms sweating and heart racing — the way I often get when I know I need to talk about myself.

Near the end of the session, I explained to my counselor how I'd always considered being a therapist while growing up. My counselor told me why she decided to work as a counselor.

"I think some people are therapists even before they become therapists. I think I was one of those people," she said.

For as long as I can remember, I've always asked other people questions in order to deflect from talking about my own feelings. My counselor pointedly asked me if I had been that way my whole life, and that's when it finally dawned on me. Yes. I've always been this way. I was a therapist by personality, just as she was. If there's such a thing as temperament, mine was performing acts of emotional labor for free.

At the tender age of 14, I walked

into my first ever counseling appointment and refused to say anything. I despised the idea that someone was being paid to care about me. Deep down, I felt that my problems were minimal, so small in scale to those of others. I get out of bed every morning. I don't have thoughts of taking my own life. Why should a counselor care about me?

I was never this harsh on my friends when it came to their personal struggles. I knew that with them, no problem — no matter how big or small — was unimportant.

I let a friend lean on me for support when a boy kept breaking her heart over and over again for years. I spent hours every week giving her all my emotional support,

only to have her go back to him a second, third, then a fourth time.

I talked to boys in high school about their ailing mothers, their dependencies on recreational drug use, their struggles with mental health. I sat on the phone with them; I sat in cars with them; I let myself lose sleep in these acts of emotional labor — and I didn't even have romantic feelings for them. And the funny thing is that these guys never once asked about me or how I was doing. They only felt comfortable opening up to women, but they were at a loss to provide support to others.

I think people have different ways of showing love. For me, loving was helping. Loving has always been being there on a fundamental level and asking for nothing in return. Unfortunately, I think a lot of women perform this kind of unrequited and free emotional labor.

There's a ton of scholarship on how women perform the most un-

paid labor. It's the type of work that can't be readily quantified and that many people have always taken for granted — raising children, feeding the family, caring for relatives. It's your mom who always remembered to pack your lunchbox and cut the crust off your sandwich because you didn't like it. It's your wife who always asks questions about your day and makes sure the children brush their teeth before bed.

Emotional labor is often defined as the process of managing your own feelings for others. It's why we expect our customer service people to smile and ask us if we need anything. It's why we expect our waiters and waitresses to be friendly and polite. But for me and a lot of other women, it's also the act of putting in time for others and investing in their issues. It's helping them do their own emotional labor and manage their feelings.

But on the flip side, I still struggle with the whole emotional vulnerability thing as well. Besides being a woman, I know there are parts of my own background that keep emotional openness from coming naturally to me. I'm also the child of Asian immigrants, which means I was raised in a household that valued stoicism, quiet strength and "saving face" aka preventing embarrassment at all costs. My loving, wonderful parents — bless them — never expressed their love openly and also never encouraged me to share my feelings.

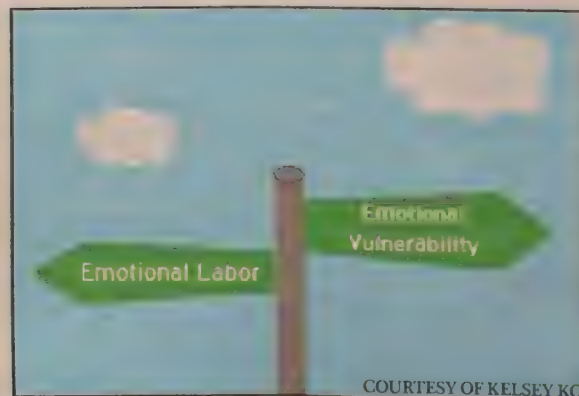
Steeped in that kind of culture, it's hard to entrust both the ugly and the pretty parts of yourself to

someone else without fear of judgment. Being vulnerable is hoping someone will love you enough to accept the not-so-fun, not-so-happy parts of you. And that's pretty scary.

Once I got to college, confronting that demon that I first came face-to-face with at 14 years old — that demon called therapy — terrified me. I had to talk about myself to someone I didn't really know for a whole hour, and that notion rattled me to the core. And get this: I had to go in and do it willingly. Face it. Ask for help and say, "My problems feel too big for me, even though I also feel they are smaller than those of others."

I don't think I'll ever be someone who can call up a friend immediately when something is bothering me. It's still easier for me to process feelings through writing than by speaking out loud. But these days I'm making a conscious effort — to open up, to be candid, to share greater parts of my life with the people I love. Because isn't loving also trusting someone with yourself, as much as it is about being there for the other person? It's about your emotional vulnerability as much as it is about your emotional labor.

At my counseling session, my counselor told me that even therapists need therapists. And I'm starting to believe her.



COURTESY OF KELSEY KO

Love, Sex and Relationships



Let's talk about sex: We asked 25 people from...

By DIVA PAREKH
Copy Editor

There have always been stereotypes surrounding sex, love and relationships. It's hard to always see beyond them and understand what the reality is. So we decided to investigate. Twenty-five editors and contributors of this magazine answered a few questions anonymously: some serious, some funny, some completely random. Here's what we found out...

If you had to pick a place at Hopkins to... you know...

Gilman Bell Tower

Brody Café

On the back of one of those golf carts... as it's being driven around all over the quad... in the snow.

Roof of the Undergraduate Teaching Labs

Roof of Krieger Hall

Roof of the Rec Center

A classroom in Gilman Hall

University President
Ronald J. Daniels' front lawn

The Beach

Shriver Hall

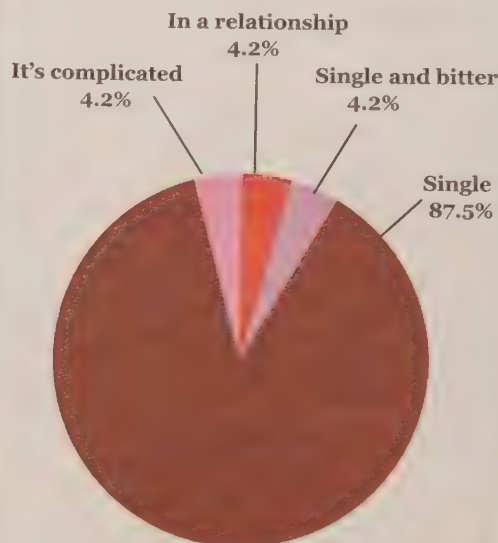
M-level

The Sculpture Garden

My room

The 50-yard line on the football field

What was your relationship status going into freshman year of college?



What is your ideal date?

"A scenic drive (windows down, blasting 'Unwritten' obviously), ice skating at an outdoor rink, dinner and stargazing"

"Beyoncé concert Beyoncé concert Beyoncé concert"

"Escape The Room, eating dinner at an Italian restaurant, then watching *Friends*."

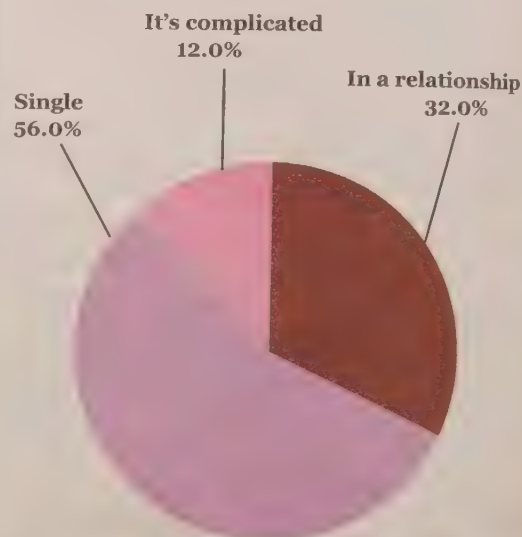
"I would like to go to a cat café+bookstore type thing and just sit and read together with cats everywhere."

"Something where you can learn about the other person and how they see the world, like going to a museum or just eating food together"

"We walk to Roland Park and try to see into the homes of rich people. I impress you with my knowledge of Baltimore architecture, and you give me some fast facts about each breed of dog we pass. We make a Spotify playlist for the walk back."

"Someone cooking for me"

What is your current relationship status?



Does the media's version of "hookup culture" exist?

"The media represents hookup culture as meaningless, and I don't think that's accurate. Sometimes those drunk Fridays and Saturdays become warm, comfortable Tuesdays. Sometimes two people operating under the façade of 'we're just hooking up' realize that it's more than that. We don't see that concept in the way this culture is portrayed."

"The media talks about the lack of emotional intimacy that stems from hookup culture, but what it sometimes fails to take into account is that college students are often too busy to find people to form meaningful relationships with. As a result, they use casual sex as a substitute."

"No. It implies that nearly everyone is hooking up or in a long-term relationship at all times, when this is far from true."

"I don't think it's accurately represented, because usually it's presented from a limited point of view. Most protagonists in movies and TV shows are heterosexual and (in my opinion) don't represent students similar to me."

Love, Sex and Relationships

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

February 15, 2018

... The News-Letter about what they think



How do you define sex?

"Sex is whatever you think sex is! The idea that sex has to be penetrative is frankly heteronormative and can be confusing for a lot of people (especially female-female sex)."

"Sex. Verb. To engage in the horizontal naked dance with a partner of choice."

"Intimacy, vulnerability, kinky shit"

"It's a slow camera pan up from the bed to the window where waves are crashing."

"When two people (regardless of gender) try to make each other cum."

"However the people engaging in the activities want to define it — could be full penetration or oral or fingering or whatever. The important part is consent and fun"

"Penis + vaginal intercourse"

"Any genital touching with any body part but the hand"

How do you balance books and bae?

"My number one priority has always been my grades, so at the beginning of my current relationship, I literally told my boyfriend that if the relationship negatively impacted my academics, I'd break up with him."

"Nope, entirely unrelated for me"

"Academics are more important to me but like if I care about someone enough I could make it work"

"Degrees before testes, y'all"

"I think being in a relationship would be an additional commitment, but it could also alleviate the loneliness that can also affect academics."

"Balancing school and a relationship is difficult and sometimes not doable. It really comes down to what you prioritize. While school is important, so are meaningful relationships. If you find someone who respects your goals and your responsibilities and you respect theirs, I think you can make a relationship work."

Music between the sheets

A sex playlist compiled by *The News-Letter*

"B-a-b-y" by Carla Thomas

"Weight in Gold" by Gallant

"True Colors" by The Weeknd

"Sweater Weather" by The Neighbourhood

"In the Hall of the Mountain King"
by Edvard Grieg

"Sexual Healing"
by Marvin Gaye, the Kygo Remix

"Best Part"
by Daniel Caesar (feat. H.E.R.)

"Falling for you" by The 1975

"I Wanna Be Yours"
by Arctic Monkeys

"Acquainted" by The Weeknd

"Get It On" by T. Rex

"Whatever You Like" by Anya Marina

"My Body" by Perfume Genius

"Never Be the Same" by Camila Cabello

"Pillowtalk" by Zayn

"Swan Lake (Finale)" by Tchaikovsky

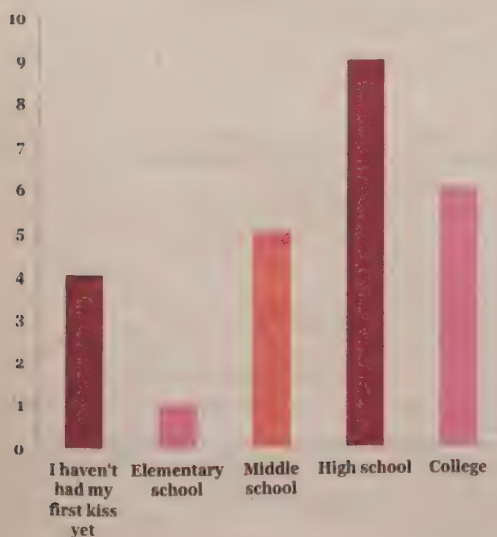
"I'll Be There For You"
by The Rembrandts

"Two Weeks" by FKA twigs

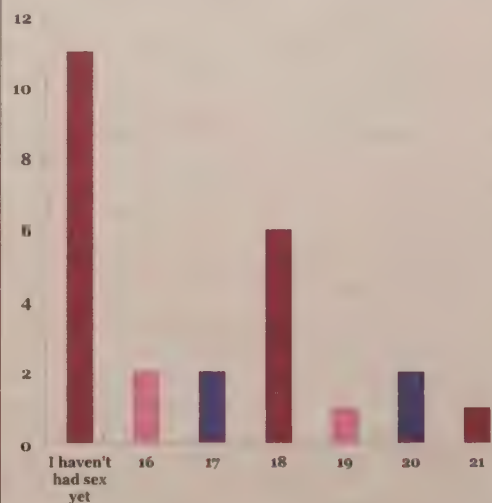
"Crazy in Love" by Beyoncé (feat. Jay-Z)

Khalid Discography

When was your first kiss?



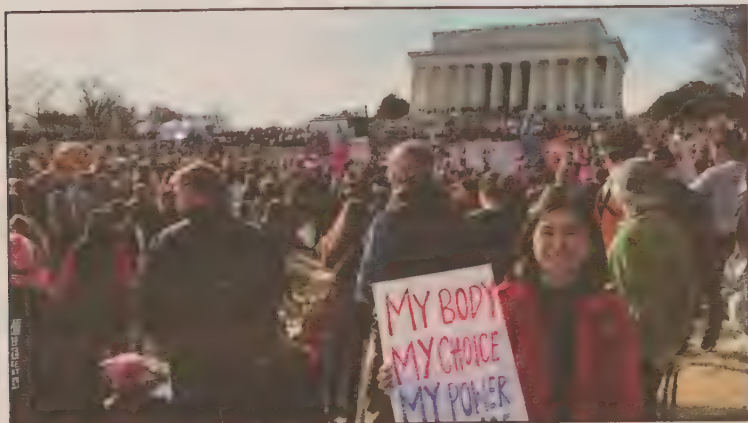
At what age did you first have sex?



Love, Sex and Relationships



My body, my choice: the politics of birth control



COURTESY OF MORGAN OME

Thousands gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial at the second Women's March in D.C.

By **MORGAN OME**
News & Features Editor

Last September, I woke up early on a Thursday morning and took an Uber to the Planned Parenthood clinic in central Baltimore.

"You can drop me off now," I said, when the car was a block away. "I can walk from here."

I didn't feel like telling the Uber driver why I was going to Planned Parenthood, not that I was certain he would even ask. People often associate Planned Parenthood with abortion services, which is fair, since they do offer those. But they provide much more, like STD testing, hormone therapy and pregnancy care. Also birth control, which was why I was going.

As I walked through the clinic doors, a security guard nodded at me. I smiled at him. I thought of the women across the nation who need security guards to protect them from anti-abortion picketers and escort them from their cars to the clinic doors.

I thought of the doctors who have been killed by anti-abortion extremists because they chose to work at clinics like Planned Parenthood. And

I thought of the women who don't seek out health services because they don't want to jeopardize their safety.

I thought of all the women, and men, who fought to make it accessible for someone like me to easily walk into that clinic. Setting up the appointment was easy, too: I just had to fill out a form online and show up at my scheduled time.

Two women in pink shirts checked me in at the front desk and told me to take a seat in the waiting room. *Fixer Upper* was playing on the TV.

Sitting directly across from me was a young woman leaning against her boyfriend. Next to her, a pregnant woman. In the corner, a lady in a navy suit and a lady in a gray tracksuit. Women of all races and ages. All in this waiting room together.

The practitioner called my name. The appointment went quickly, since I had already indicated online that I wanted to go on the pill. The practitioner asked me some questions, went over the side effects and then wrote me a prescription. She told me it would be ready to pick up in an hour.

Back in my apartment, I opened the paper prescription bag and stared at the packet. These tiny white

pills were my key to freedom and responsibility. I popped one out of the foil and swallowed it with a glass of water. Then I went to class.

Over the next few months, the pill began to change me. I knew that there could be side effects, like mood swings and weight gain. More serious problems, too. But I still felt that the tradeoff was worth it. I could have irregular periods that never seemed to end or feel depressed for weeks because of the hormones coursing through my body. But I would still be free.

I could have gone off the pill, of course. No one was forcing me to take birth control. But I wanted to continue to have freedom: freedom to be sexually active, to fall in love, to not worry about getting pregnant. Those were all reasons enough for me.

Women may choose to go on birth control to prevent pregnancy or to have lighter periods and clearer skin. But the common denominator between all of these reasons is that women want autonomy over their own bodies and their own lives.

That autonomy is currently under threat, as legislators move to eliminate women's rights to reproductive healthcare. After the 2016 presidential election, many of my friends talked about getting an IUD so that they would be protected for the next four years. Some worried that they would need to move to a state with better access to birth control.

I am scared that my freedom and my choices will be limited. But I also know that there are many in this country who will fight relentlessly for reproductive rights. And that gives me courage.

This January, I woke up early on a Saturday morning to go to the Women's March in D.C. I wore a pink coat and carried a homemade poster with "My body, my choice / My power, my voice" written in colorful, capital letters. I held the sign up as high as I could while we marched.

Near the White House, the crowd slowed down and diverged around a small mass of people blocking the flow of the march. As I craned my neck to see what was going on, I saw anti-abortion counter protesters carrying large banners with photos of babies covered in blood. I heard my own blood pounding in my ears: the sound of rage.

"Let's start a chant," I said to my two friends. "We'll do, 'My body, my choice,' and then the response will be, 'their body, their choice.' Okay?"

We started yelling. At first, it was just the three of us: two girls calling, one boy responding. But then more people joined in, and the words began to swell.

For a moment, I stopped shouting and just listened to the crowd as they carried on the chant, new voices adding to a chorus of defiance and strength.

Back in September, I didn't know how much the pill would change me. I didn't know that it would not only alter my body, but my mind, too. Some days, I wake up and feel physically weak and fatigued. Sometimes I resent the pill.

But most days, I appreciate the pill for giving me a voice: for making the political personal. For helping me understand the importance of choice. For compelling me to fight for women to have the freedom to make their own decisions.

I appreciate the pill for giving me a voice: for making the political personal.

Love, Sex and Relationships

10

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

February 15, 2018



Why are we still talking about my virginity?

By SARAH Y. KIM
News & Features Editor

I'm still a virgin," someone told me. "We haven't had penis-in-vagina sex yet."

They'd done a whole lot else, though.

This person's (let's call her G) statement struck me for two reasons. One, her definition of virginity seemed to suggest that sex couldn't happen unless it involved vaginal intercourse between a man and woman. A woman may lose her virginity to a man. But a woman who only has sex with cisgender women is still a virgin and will always remain as such.

Of course, that doesn't make sense, and it's not what G really meant.

The second thing that struck me was the way G said, "I'm still a virgin." The tone was defensive. It was as though she were saying: "I haven't totally messed up. I'm still a virgin, technically."

I realized how pervasive slut-shaming was among my peers, and I thought of the ways I might have contributed to that culture.

Throughout history, we have been conditioned to associate female virginity with virtue, even power or divinity. The notion pervades religion, literature, art, film and politics. The Virgin Mary, Elizabeth I's cult of virginity and the virgin goddesses in Greek mythology (Athena, Artemis, Hestia) are just a few classic examples.

It is nice, I suppose, to be told that as women, we don't need men to kick ass. It would be nicer, though, if we women had the luxury of exploring our sexuality without feeling that our power would be somehow diminished.

As women, we have always been defined by our virginity or lack thereof.

Historically, our virginity signified which man we belonged to or whether we were soiled goods. Women were garments, and our virginities were our price tags. Once the price tags were torn off, we were not good for sale or return, unless we were widows.

A woman's honor or virtue was simply her virginity, closely guarded by her father, her proprietor.

This notion isn't a thing of the past. Take the familiar wedding ceremony, for example, which symbolizes the transfer of power from man to man. The father walks down the aisle with his daughter, who is dressed in white.

"I am a virgin," her dress is supposed to scream. Meanwhile, white is not as important to the groom's outfit, because we don't really care.

Even today in the U.S., whether or not you are a virgin is supposed to say something about you.

If you're a virgin, you're uptight, a goody two-shoes. You're a feminist. You hate men. You may be bitter, arrogant, puritanical, repressed, unattractive or you simply don't have the game.

If you're not a virgin, you've either got the game and/or you have no self-respect. You're easy.

Note that we don't put men on a pedestal for "saving themselves." Oh no! In fact, the male virgin is an embarrassment. He is weak; he is less than a man. Besides, real men just can't help themselves, they just have to stick it in somewhere, don't you know?

This double standard, along with our fixation on female virginity in general, is a reflection of our own internalized misogyny.

For proof, look no further than the etymology of 'virgin.' While 'virgin' is not a female-exclusive term, the root word of virgin is the Latin word 'virgo,' which means 'young, sexu-

ally inexperienced woman.'

Not to mention the myth that is the hymen, of which there is no equivalent in the male anatomy. The language around your first time also appears to stem from this myth: 'losing your virginity,' 'losing your maidenhood,'

(dated, but still telling) 'popping your cherry' and more.

It is only for women that virginity is supposed to have physicality, and the language we use often suggests that the man must be the active performer and the woman must be the passive receiver. We are the popped, while the man pops.

Society thinks that female virginity still matters. Men continue to have a fetish for virgin women. Have sex with the pure, naive virgin with her tight fit, make her bleed and voila, she belongs to you! You have staked out your territory.

For women, our virginity has always mattered because it matters to society, and because our bodies usually pay the steeper price.

It's hard to talk about sex without using the words 'virginity' or 'virgin.' But perhaps it is time that we stop obsessing over this heteronormative social construct designed to constrain women and diminish their self-worth.

Virginity is no longer relevant, and in a world that accepts the LG-BTQ community, there can be no standard definition for it. This is not to say that the first time and who you do it with doesn't matter. Your



PUBLIC DOMAIN

Kim argues that women, unlike men, face social pressure to remain virgins.

body is your own, and someone who doesn't respect you has no right to it.

But your first time should not be something that people use as leverage to judge you and make assumptions about you.

Society always has new unreasonable standards for us women. We may be doing a better job of acknowledging that yes, women can be sexual beings, but there's an added expectation that we be sexually active even when we're not ready. We're always either sluts or prudes.

A few months ago I was reuniting with friends who were amused to learn that I had zero experience. One of them said, "Even so-and-so is better than you, at least she hooked up with someone."

I laughed it off, but I was troubled that this person would think it was okay to assign me some sort of status based on whether I'd "lost it."

Our bodies are ours, our sexual experiences are personal. We women are ready when we are, not when others want us to be. We women are more than our sex lives.

That being said, I still want a white wedding dress.



The problems with heteronormativity in American sex education

By RUDY MALCOM
Staff Writer

Procrastinating my search for employment yet still desiring a source of income, I filled out a Google Forms survey the other day to determine my eligibility to participate in a paid research study. The questionnaire asked whether I had ever fainted before.

Indeed, I have, twice — both times in ninth grade Health class. My first episode was triggered by watching a video of a gastric lavage being performed, the second by the teacher's telling us about how a student developed an infection after her boyfriend's condom unknowingly got stuck inside her vagina.

Although her anecdote, like most, was likely intended to discourage the class from engaging in premarital heterosexual sex, it served to delay me from accepting my being gay.

I am not trying to proclaim that high schoolers shouldn't be taught about female anatomy for fear of making those who are closeted to themselves and sexually unawakened fall unconscious.

During 11th grade Health class, my friend and I joked about the "mystique of the clitoris" when our teacher failed even to mention its existence in her lesson on sex organs. After class, shocked, we asked her why.

"It might make... certain kids uncomfortable," she said, rolling her eyes as she not only slighted me inadvertently, but also reinforced stig-

mas about female sexual pleasure. (I won't even begin to address the deficits for cishets in sex education, even though it is cishet-gear.)

Dreading another fainting spell, at the time I was perfectly content not to have to learn more about the physiology of the sex I felt socially obliged to desire, but my teacher was treating the symptom of my would-be discomfort and not its underlying cause: the exclusion of the queer community from sex education at my school, along with tens of thousands of others.

I suppose I would be dishonoring my alma mater if I failed to acknowledge the barebones presentation we received freshman year from Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth (Ligaly), which gave me the impression that LGBTQ people were the Other. Another presentation given by the same organization two years later, though informative, served primarily as a much-belated, superficial cure-all for the lack of queer representation in the Health curriculum.

It goes without saying that I don't find the clitoris and vulva to be particularly visually appealing, but it was not my teacher's (albeit graphic) descriptions of female anatomy that brought me to the floor. I'm not squeamish; I can talk about flesh and blood and feces at the tables in the FFC. It was the heteronormativity that she and her fellow sex educators had cultivated.

Before fainting, I remember becoming increasingly nervous as I scanned the faces of my male peers. I wondered how they were reacting

to the story. Were they (somehow) turned on? Was I supposed to be? What facial expression should I be making in order to mask my discomfort? Why was I uncomfortable?

According to a *Teaching Tolerance* article titled "The New Sex Ed," a study conducted by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network (GLSEN) in 2014 found that only five percent of middle and high schoolers reported that their health classes included "positive discussions of LG-BT-related topics." At the time, eight states banned "LGBT content" in sex education classes; four even mandated "explicitly negative messages about LGBT identities."

According to a Guttmacher Institute fact sheet, as of this New Year's Day, only 12 states "require discussion of sexual orientation." Nine require it to be inclusive, but the other three require only negative information.

Kept not only in the closet but in the dark, LGBTQ youth are not provided with information to address their health needs, "leaving them at risk for sexual violence and prone to engage in unprotected sex," says the Center for the Study of Women (CSW) at the University of California, Los Angeles.

According to GLSEN, queer youth are already more likely "to have begun having sex at an early age and to have multiple partners compared to their heterosexual peers"; "to have sex while under the influence of alcohol or other drugs"; "to experience dating violence"; "to contract HIV or another STI"; and "to experience teen

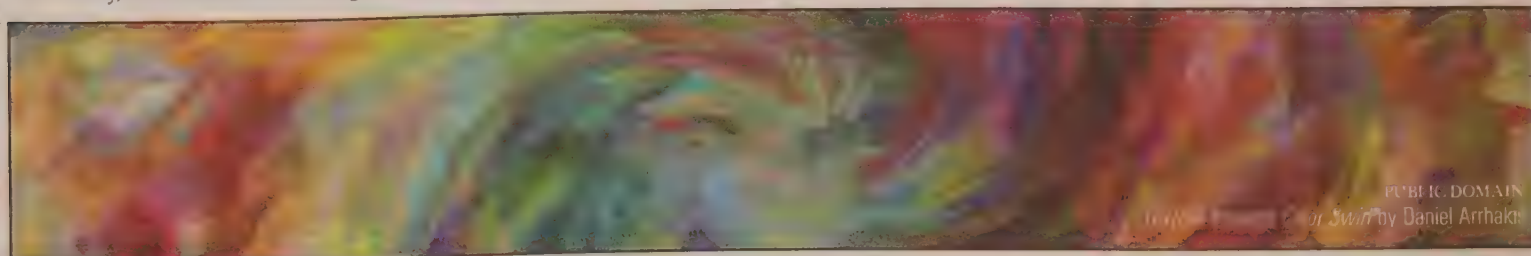
pregnancy." They are less likely to "use condoms or birth control when they have sex."

Furthermore, the Center for American Progress (CAP) published that members of the LGBTQ community have "disproportionately high" rates of mental health issues and substance abuse. They turn to drugs in order to manage the stress of stigmatization and discrimination at school. Frequent harassment results in lower GPAs, lower self-esteem and higher rates of depression and suicide.

Sex educators wield an enormous capacity and responsibility to build comprehensive curricula that affirm and normalize — not shame and marginalize — the identities of LG-BTQ youth at a critical time in their formation.

A CAP study demonstrated that implementing queer-inclusive sex education, whose support encompasses "most parents, medical organizations, and educational organizations" and crosses both "political and religious lines," builds safer school environments that teach cishet students to respect and value their LGBTQ peers.

For the sake of their academic success, health and wellbeing, queer youth must not be overlooked. Even if they appear nowhere on President Trump's website, LGBTQ people do exist. Sex educators who fail to incorporate this truth into their lessons propagate a one-dimensional and inaccurate depiction of human sexuality, to the detriment of both their queer and cishet students.



PUBLIC DOMAIN
or Swin by Daniel Arrhak

Love, Sex and Relationships

12

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

February 15, 2018



Never been kissed: Learning to accept my unsexy love life



PUBLIC DOMAIN

By CATHERINE PALMER
Managing Editor

I'm a 22-year-old college senior, and I have never kissed anyone. It's not for lack of attraction or for any kind of religious reasons. It just never happened. Generally, I'm a fairly shy and reserved person. From an early age, I learned to process my emotions on my own instead of relying on others. Fortunately I now have several close friends in my life. But given my natural tendencies, I have to make a concerted effort to really put myself out there and talk to people. It often takes me a while to break through the ice.

As I started writing this article, I realized that I've always expected a guy to make the first move. I couldn't contemplate the humiliation of telling a guy how I felt, let alone kissing him and then finding out he didn't feel the same way.

I had my first real crush when I was about 13 or 14 years old, and it was on my only real guy friend in middle school. I had never been sure how he felt. But just before eighth grade graduation, my best friend told me that she'd heard that he liked me. I was thrilled, but I wasn't going to say anything to him. I wasn't sure if my

friend was right.

I remember kissing a pillow for practice as I was getting dressed for our post-graduation-dinner dance. I figured if something was going to happen, it would happen that night. It didn't.

We kept texting, though,

and the next winter, I invited him to my freshman formal. I would never have made the first move, but I went to an all-girls high school, so you had to ask guys to dances. Once again, nothing happened. I told myself that if he liked me, he would've done something or said something, so I didn't say anything, and we drifted apart.

As time went by, I started to feel like I was falling behind even more as compared to my peers, 95 percent of whom, I was sure, had already had their first kisses in middle school.

As a result of my insecurity and shyness, I became a "crush slut" (that's what I called myself in my head). Almost any guy who talked to me, was nice to me or even smiled at me, I was instantly attracted to. I would almost unconsciously picture myself with them. I guess I figured if they wanted to talk to me, maybe they'd eventually be willing to make the first move that I knew I couldn't.

Junior year, I asked a senior at my brother's high school who I had a crush on to winter formal. I'd known him for years, but I'd always been too intimidated to really talk to him. I got to know him a lot better in high school, though, while he was dating one of my friends. He was always nice

to me, which only made my crush worse. But of course, I wasn't going to interfere with my friend's relationship.

She broke up with him early junior year. I figured since she'd been the one to break up with him rather than the other way around, it would be okay for me to ask him to the dance. He agreed to go, and I eventually nervously told my friend. She was incredibly supportive and even invited us to her house for pre-formal pictures.

Once again, I got my hopes up that something would happen. It didn't, but I still had a nice time. About a month later, I asked him over text if he wanted to go to prom with me, figuring that he would definitely say yes, barring a scheduling conflict. Instead, he replied that he had enjoyed himself at the formal, but he didn't really want to go to any more dances.

I immediately knew that it was a cop out to avoid saying that he didn't like me. I'm sure he was trying to spare my feelings, but it actually hurt a lot worse knowing that he didn't have the decency to at least be honest with me.

The closest I ever came to being in a relationship was during my senior year. It all started with a friendly text from a friend of my brother's who I had never met. When I asked my brother about it, he said the guy had asked for my number.

At the time, I didn't think anything of it. He was a year younger than us, and I didn't really have any guy friends. I figured it would be fun to get to know him. He started texting me a lot, and I would respond eagerly. I wasn't used to getting that many texts.

He also wanted to start snapchatting, so I eagerly downloaded the app. Eventually, warning bells finally started going off. He had begun texting and snapping me almost nonstop. Nothing explicit, but the attention was starting to make me uncomfortable.

I finally asked my brother why he had asked for my number in the first place, and that's when I found out that he had seen a picture of me on Facebook first and said something about me being cute. My brother didn't think it was a big deal, but I felt uneasy. He could've asked my brother to introduce us in person first. Why hadn't he?

I told him that I didn't feel comfortable talking to him anymore, or something to that effect. He got mad and accused me of leading him on, but he did stop contacting me shortly thereafter. I deleted Snapchat, and I haven't re-downloaded it since.

For senior prom, I went with one of my brother's friends who I *had* met in person. For once, I didn't have any expectations, and I had the most fun I've ever had at a dance. I finally had a big friend group to go with, and we basically danced in a circle the whole time. I didn't even slow dance with my date.

I've never felt like I "needed" a guy, but I've always felt awkward about missing out on the life experience of kissing someone, not to mention being in a relationship.

I have had some typical college experiences. I've been to a handful of frat parties, but I never enjoyed them. Maybe I would've had my first kiss by now if I'd gone out more, but I don't regret my decision. I don't want to chase someone else's idea of what a college experience should be.

In the past few months, though, as I prepare to enter the real world, I realize that I could stand to be a bit more bold, but vulnerable too. That's partly why I'm writing this article.

I'm also writing this say to anyone who might be in my position: You are not alone. To some extent, I'll probably always feel uncomfortable about not having experienced my first kiss yet, and I've accepted that. But I am no longer embarrassed or ashamed of myself, and you shouldn't be either.



Luna, a short story

By **ELAINE WONG**
Webmaster

Clarissa was a passionate collector of the small toys that were dispensed in capsules from the gumball machines in front of grocery stores. Her first full collection, comprised of mini Sailor Moon bobbleheads, had been paid for by the quarters her dad collected from his addiction to vending machine snacks. Last June, her father had passed away in a car crash. The little Luna bobblehead had flown out the window and landed on a soft patch of grass at the side of the road. All the others had been destroyed, along with her father.

Max, the boy who loved Clarissa, made it a habit to retrieve a toy from each of the five machines in front of their local Safeway every time he went grocery shopping. He would count out five quarters from his reserve for paid parking and tuck them into his breast pocket.

When she opened one, he kept the plastic capsule and wrote down the name of the toy that was inside of it with the date. If there was a special occasion — for example, if they had their first kiss that day or went on a nice date — he would write it on a slip of paper and stick it inside the capsule. He had it in mind that he

would use them for a creative proposal, like in a commercial he'd seen where a guy drew on the wrapper of every stick of gum he had given to his girlfriend. The specifics he would figure out later.

Later, the night before he wanted to propose, he realized he had left one of the capsules in her car from when they were opening the toys together. He phoned her while she was driving home and, since she hadn't gotten too far, she agreed to drive back to give him the capsule. As she was making her U-turn, a speeding Budget truck that didn't have its headlights on slammed into her, barreling her car straight into a tree and crushing her. To Max's satisfaction, the truck driver was also killed.

But now he had this pile of capsules, hundreds or even thousands of them, scattered all over the floor. All different colors and sizes with different things scribbled on them. For the first year or so he left them all over the floor, tiptoeing over each of them so as to not disturb them, as though it were a crime scene and the chalk outlines hadn't yet been drawn.

Then, eventually realizing it was time to move on, he picked up each capsule one by one, examined it and its contents, and pushed it under his bed. It was the first time he

cried since the day of the accident. Two years later, he brought a new girlfriend home, and as they were getting to the bed he noticed a capsule that had rolled out and was now staring at him from the floor. In a split second he was crying and shrieking, and the girlfriend, not knowing what was going on, ran out of the house.

It wasn't that he didn't love his new girlfriend. He didn't know what it was. He tried to phone her two to five times a day for a whole week, but it had scared her so badly that she wouldn't pick up. And every time he called, he could only imagine Clarissa's face on the other side of the line, more clearly than he had been able to even right after she had passed. The wine-red streaks in her hair that perfectly bordered her face, the way she scrunched her nose when she got a repeat of the same toy, the tiny mole above her lip. At some point he even forgot he wasn't calling her.

It was as if he had gone back in time to their last call. He could feel his mouth forming the words, "Hey Izzy, I left one of the capsules in your car, do you think you could bring it back soon?" and then he could hear himself saying them. And when the only response was the dial tone, he threw his phone across the room, swept all the capsules out from un-

der his bed and into two giant bins, packed the bins into his car, and left them at the recycling center.

As he was driving back, he wondered if it would have been better to burn them at home. Perhaps to burn his house down with them. Watch them burn and smell the cancer that was melting off each capsule, breathe in all the fumes and chew on the carbon monoxide and let the capsules kill him.

He imagined the stupid plastic things being melted down in the stupid recycling center and thought back to the day he pushed them under the bed, reciting them in his mind in the order that he had read them all that time ago. Each time he recited a memory he felt it being tossed into the wind and fading away. By the time he realized this it was too late. The more he tried to stop reciting the memories to prevent them from being thrown away, the faster they disappeared. It was like what they said about your life flashing before your eyes but worse. This was something bigger than that.

The memories whizzed by like the white lines on the road home, and by the time he returned all he could remember was the delicate way her fingers moved when she took her little Luna bobblehead out of its capsule and handed it to him and said, "This was the only one left."

PUBLIC DOMAIN

Love, Sex and Relationships

14

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

February 15, 2018



A Song of Sex and Power: Portrayals of sex in *Game of Thrones*

By **ALYSSA WOODEN**
News & Features Editor

The Emmy-winning HBO fantasy drama *Game of Thrones* (GoT) is famous for a lot of things, like its elaborate sets and costumes, its eagerness to kill off main characters, and of course its innumerable graphic sex scenes. Many have criticized the show for being overly pornographic or displaying excessive sexual violence. The reality, as any diehard fan knows, is that GoT is so much more than just incest and nudity. At its core it's a show about courage, perseverance, family, love and loyalty — themes that are largely universal. The show is so popular partly because, although it takes place in a medieval fantasy world, viewers today can personally relate to many of the things the characters deal with on the show — one of which, obviously, is sex.

Sex in GoT happens for an endless number of reasons and results in an endless number of consequences (massive spoiler warning ahead). When Bran sees Jaime and Cersei having sex, Jaime pushes Bran out of a window and paralyzes him, setting the plot of the first season in motion. The scene between Oberyn Martell, his lover Ellaria, and the male and female prostitutes in King's Landing characterizes Oberyn as a free spirit, an outsider who doesn't care about the conventions or customs of the rest of King's Landing.

Characters may try to use sex to gain power, as when Stannis sleeps with Melisandre, resulting in a ghost/shadow/demon creature that kills Renly, Stannis' brother and rival. After Lancel has sex with Cersei, Tyrion blackmails him into spying on her for him. Osha has sex with Theon to distract him and allow Bran

and Rickon to escape, and Margaery sleeps with Tommen to gain his trust and approval, driving a wedge between him and Cersei.

And everyone knows what happens in the season six finale, when Loras is put on trial for sleeping with Olyvar. The show may have more sex scenes than most, but they aren't just thrown in there for the sake of it. Sex scenes — like all scenes in GoT — serve a deliberate purpose.

Despite the prostitutes, incest and child marriages, the show as a whole does not portray sex in a violent or negative light. Many characters are empowered by their sexuality, particularly female characters who have to fight for themselves in a male-dominated world.

Ygritte, the badass wildling warrior, sets her sights on what she wants — Jon Snow — and doesn't stop until she gets it, convincing one of the most moral characters in the show to break his celibacy vows. But when Jon betrays her, she doesn't hesitate to shoot him full of arrows and abandon him in the middle of a Northern wasteland.

Daenerys is happier and more confident when she decides to have sex with Daario, but when he becomes too much of a distraction, she leaves him to pursue bigger and better things — specifically the Iron Throne. Even Cersei refuses to let anything come between her relationship with Jamie while simultaneously ruling the Seven Kingdoms.

Of course, not all characters need to be sexually active to be empowered. Although Brienne is at first driven by her love for Renly, and occasionally appears romantically linked to certain characters, she never lets a man get in the way of her mission. Arya, Bran and Varys — some of the show's most capable and valuable characters — are similarly

uninterested in sex (yes, Varys is a eunuch, but in one scene he explains how he didn't care for sex even before he was castrated).

Despite its sex-positive outlook, however, GoT seems to have no boundaries when it comes to depictions of sexual violence and sexually abusive characters. Do these scenes — such as the one where Joffrey forces two prostitutes to abuse each other and then shoots one full of arrows, or Sansa's rape scene with Ramsay — go too far?

Like other sex scenes, both of these are clearly purposeful. Joffrey's scene characterizes him as a cruel, sadistic monster, causing us to view him as a legitimate villain rather than a childish, fairy tale bad guy. The Ramsay/Sansa rape scene develops the show's plot, giving Jon the motivation to engage in battle with Ramsay and take back the North, and prompts Sansa's evolution into a cold, calculating leader.

GoT in no way promotes or glorifies sexual violence — it's worth noting that both Joffrey and Ramsay, as well as virtually every other perpetrator of such crimes, ends up horrifically murdered — but could the show have functioned without these scenes? Certainly the writers could have found other ways to develop characters and advance the plot. But a major part of GoT's massive impact on modern culture comes from its refusal to shy away from uncomfortable yet relevant themes, including but not limited to sexual violence.



COURTESY OF HBO

Despite what some may think, the gratuitous sex in GoT serves a purpose.

In real life people face these issues every day, and by confronting them head-on, GoT creates space for them to be discussed and dealt with rather than ignored and dismissed. Additionally, while undeniably a fantasy show, GoT attempts to be true to history in the context of its characters' relationships, motivations and traditions. Ignoring things like prostitutes, child marriage and sexual violence would be like erasing a significant aspect of human history, as well as contemporary society.

There are countless opinions out there on *Game of Thrones*, but I feel confident in saying that in terms of scale, story and following, GoT is one of the most influential shows ever made. I also believe that without its infamous sex scenes, it wouldn't be the same show that millions of people around the world know and love. It wouldn't be as relatable, as realistic, as compelling, as politically and as culturally relevant. Its plot would seem less genuine, its characters less three-dimensional. Some of the show's decisions have certainly been controversial, but *Game of Thrones* needs to take risks in order to get at the root of human nature and redefine an entire genre. And for the most part, those risks have paid off.

Love, Sex and Relationships



The News-Letter